

# Edinburgh Printmakers

## Explore Etching/Acrylic Resist Intaglio

This course will aim to encourage a more experimental approach to etching, using new techniques that allow greater freedom of expression and more spontaneous and diverse methods of mark making. The course will explore the use of water-based acrylic-etch products and a wide variety of methods that make etching safe, simple and solvent free. A new feature of the course will be alternative printing techniques using non-toxic water-based etching inks.

**Course Tutor: Denise Walker**



Alan Davie, The day of the little dog, etching, published by Edinburgh Printmakers, 2003

## Course Structure

**Alternative Etch – Safer Chemicals for biting metals : Ferric chloride & Copper sulphate (Bordeaux Etch).**

We examine the alternatives to using hazardous chemicals such as nitric acid, how to prepare the chemicals and relevant health & safety and environmental issues.

**Choosing the metal – Copper or zinc?**

How to find out which chemicals and techniques are best suited to particular metals.

**New products/new processes.**

We begin with an introduction to acrylic resists. How to make your own resists and how they compare with commercially available products.

### **Preparation for applying the resists.**

A look at new and simple techniques for degreasing the metal and how plates are prepared for the processes.

### **Acrylic Hard Resist - a new type of etching ground.**

We experiment with methods of applying the new etching resist and techniques of drawing and finally how to bite the plates.

### **Alternative lift ground - positive mark making.**

Here we try out alternatives to the "sugar lift" process, enabling us to paint and draw positive marks.

### **Open Bite - negative mark making. Deep etch.**

Using acrylic resists, we see how easy it is to make strongly bitten shapes and textures.

### **'Wash Ground' / 'Wet Ground'**

We find out about the unique qualities of the acrylic resists and how they help us create painterly tones and textures. We look at the alternative technique to "soft ground" etching.

### **Acrylic Resist - Aquatint made easy.**

The technique of aquatint becomes safe and easy using acrylic resists. We examine the equipment and materials needed.

### **Printing techniques: using traditional intaglio inks and non-toxic water-based etching inks.**

Here we print from the experimental plates we have made and look at fast and safe techniques of printing etchings. We will discuss what papers can be used and how they are prepared for printing.

### **Forum for discussion and appraisal.**

We will discuss the processes we have used in the course and assess the resultant prints. This will be the time for problem solving and finding out how to benefit and progress from our initial experiments. We aim to provide fully detailed notes on the processes, equipment & suppliers as well as how to set up your studio for the acrylic techniques and health & safety /environmental issues.