

CHUCK OLSON

Artist's Statement: Monotypes

This exhibition is the result of a self designed four week residency that centered itself on two primary goals—to learn, develop, and execute a series of monotypes (a one of a kind singularly printed image) and to immerse myself in the atmosphere of Brattleboro, a place that I have come to love. In renting a 220 year old country farmhouse and contracting with First Proof Press as a studio, I embarked on a four week experience from which this exhibition makes manifest.

A monotype, as I have learned, is the result of the decisive moment in which the power of the press delivers an interpretation of the painter's vision. The result is both judgement and lesson handed down by the 2000 lb authority of a large printing press. An image is designed by the artist with printer's inks, brayers, scrapers, brushes, and various stencils which is then sent to the printing bed for an impression and a resulting interpretation. It is entirely fascinating, frustrating, and filled with suggestive nuance. This leads to creating another and, ergo, an evolution of images. Each morning, compositions were designed for two to four visuals that would be printed directly. After this initial printing, as the plates still held useable ink, a "ghost" image was printed by often overlapping these plates which often provided surprising "watercolor" like imagery. Here, the press was giving me new insight into my work and, quite possibly, new direction for future canvases. As this daily work developed, this town, its people, and the surrounding countryside contributed color, texture, and form to add to my visual toolbox.

I would like to thank Dan Chiaccio of First Proof Press for his guidance and use of the facility, to Megan MacArthur for the use of the famous family homestead that was such a source of inspiration, and to Petey Mitchell and Jim Giddings for their constant support and generosity without whom none of this would have been possible.

Chuck Olson, May 19, 2022

MITCHELL • GIDDINGS FINE ARTS
183 Main Street Brattleboro, Vermont 03501
802.251.8290 mitchellgiddingsfinearts.com