



Dundee Contemporary Arts

Get Creative Course Information

Electro Etching

Location: Print Studio, beside Jute Café Bar, Lower ground level of DCA

Date: Sat 18 & Sun 19 April (two-day course)

Time: 11:00 – 18:00

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will be covered?

We will cover the basic principles of the electro-etching process and discover how it differs from traditional etching. We will begin by preparing a copper plate with a copper contact strip to conduct the electrical current through the plate. The voltage used to etch the lines into the plate is extremely low at 0.5V, which is around a third of the voltage of a standard AA battery. The plate will be then be covered with an acrylic resist hard ground on which to create a line drawing. You will be shown how to set up and use the electro-etching tank, including the settings for the power supply and safety procedures when using the tank.

Over the two-day workshop you will create a multiple stage line drawing on a copper plate, adding flat areas of tone with electrotint - a rosin-free alternative to aquatint unique to the electro-etching process. The plate can then be printed using an etching press. The result will be a printed image with a variety of line and tone that has been etched into the plate using electricity instead of acid.

What should I bring?

An idea for a print - an image to draw from or an initial sketch. A notebook is useful if you would prefer to make your own notes, but notes detailing each stage of the process will be provided.

What should I wear?

Comfortable shoes, old clothes. Sandals and open-toed footwear are not allowed in the Print Studio.

What should I expect?

You will make a copper plate electro-etching with areas of line and tone, and take proof prints of your completed plate.

If time allows there will also be the opportunity to make a deeply etched zinc plate using a variety of resists. The plate can then be printed with or without ink to create an embossed image with a range of interesting textures and tonal effects.

There will be a short session at the end for feedback and discussion. You will have the opportunity to give written feedback.