

Recent history has seen printmaking mature away from a series of reprographic techniques into several free, expressive means each with a multitude of individual practitioners. While orthodox opinion casts the printmaker in a basic role, tied down by complexity and the limits of mechanical production, this view neither considers past masters of the art nor its democratic origins.

There is still a fear in some visual artists of committing an art work to print for the implied loss of originality involved. Yet if we recall the prints of Rembrandt, Goya, Hogarth, Blake or Picasso, who each created very individual statements through the process, we see it is not a matter of the medium but how it is used.

Art Now presents a show of seven young printmakers, each with a differing approach, who represent the 'artist printmaker' – a person who, along with painting, illustration or sculpting, also uses print for the special qualities of expression it offers.

The selection of work varies from the semi-abstractions of Duncan Bullen through to the complex Hogarthian scenes of John Hewitt. Each one of these printmakers has distinguished himself through commissions, residencies and fellowships and, due to the pressure of individual careers, this exhibition offers a unique opportunity to see their work together, as a group of innovative and accomplished young artists.

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