

FIVE RELIEF PRINTMAKERS

Relief printmaking, defined most simply is the inked transfer of raised shapes by pressure. It is the oldest of all printmaking techniques — as old as printing itself.

The process consists of cutting into a flat surface — usually wood or linoleum, then inking up the raised part of the block with a roller or pad. Printing is either by press or, in similar fashion to the oki-eye block printers of Japan, by hand-burnishing. This more labour-intensive method allows varying sensitivity and pressure, resulting in no one image being quite the same. **Matthew Meadows** and **Stephen Mumberson** use Victorian platten presses.

Stephen Mumberson's vibrant and topographic images in black and white line place him in a tradition of fluent, direct cutting for which lino is ideally suited.

Matthew Meadows' recent prints are designed with city dwellers in mind. Their patterns find sources in the visual codes — particularly printed ones — which label and direct our consumption.

Sandy Sykes, well established on the British printmaking scene, puts text amongst her graphic and compelling imagery. Her work refers us back to relief printing's history of playbills and fly-shoots.

For both **Sarah Thomson** and **Peter Dover** the process of hand-burnishing is integral to their concern with colour. **Peter Dover's** recent work has a dry, sun-baked surface suggestive of an arid climate: he has recently returned from working and exhibiting in Spain.

Sarah Thomson's rich palette (and subject matter) finds its inspiration partly in periodic visits to Italy where she teaches and exhibits. Other sources for her work include artists of the British St. Ives group, particularly Terry Frost and Roger Hilton.

Zenith Art's exhibition encapsulates a wide range of different approaches to Relief Printmaking from a selection of some of the foremost contemporary artists working in this medium.

RELIEF PRINTS

PETER DOVER

MATTHEW MEADOWS

STEPHEN MUMBERSON

SANDY SYKES

SARAH THOMSON

PRIVATE VIEW

THURSDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER

6.30–8.30 PM

10TH SEPTEMBER–6TH OCTOBER

Z·E·N·I·T·H *Art*

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MON-FRI — 10.00 AM–5.00 PM

SAT — APPOINTMENTS ONLY