



# Collaborative Efforts

The Printer's Proof focuses on how artists and printers work together.

**H**OW DO ARTISTS MAKE PRINTS, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT STRONG TECHNICAL EXPERTISE OR THE LATEST EQUIPMENT? They collaborate with an expert—a master printer with deep knowledge of various mediums, technical skills, problem solving acumen, and most importantly, a commitment to helping the artist realize

their vision. Prints are often a combination of artist ideas, printmaker's knowledge and technique, occasional risk taking, and cherished happy accidents.

One of three exhibitions this winter curated by Albuquerque Museum staff, *The Printer's Proof: Artist and Printer Collaborations*, focuses on the collaborative process of printmaking. It celebrates several printers who are or

have been based in New Mexico, as well as the artists they have worked with. The six printers featured are: Marina Ancona, Robert Arber, Steve Britko, Michael Costello, Bill Lagattuta, and Jennifer Lynch. Artists featured in the exhibition include Donald Judd, Harmony Hammond, Jim Dine, Hung Liu, and many more. *The Printer's Proof* will examine a variety of printing techniques, exploring how the



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final print is often shaped by the nature of the interaction between artist and printer.

Printmaking is a labor and equipment-intensive operation, with different skills from artmaking, although many printers are also artists themselves. It requires technical knowledge and constant experimentation. Bill Lagattuta worked at Tamarind Institute from 1987 to 2015, collaborating with many artists, most of

whom would come for two week stays. In addition to helping artists realize their vision, he had to reassure them that they'd have an edition at the end of their visit. He also had to be a creative thinker; for example, the background of Jim Dine's *Double Diana* were prints made from the tops of old drawing tables that were in the basement of the former architecture building. "They were scarred from Exacto blades. I thought, 'these would be great for a background.'" Dine loved the idea, but didn't want it dominating the image, so they printed it in a beige color.

Artist and printmaker Jennifer Lynch, based in Taos, has also worked with dozens of artists to create works on paper. Each artist and each experience in the print studio is different, she says. If she is working on her own prints, the studio reflects her creative process, which can be messy. But if she is working with an artist, all signs of her own work—plates, prints, process—are eliminated. "When a client comes to the studio, it is clear of my stuff. Everything in the studio is dedicated to the artist. At that point, I'm not in the creative process. I'm approaching it from the technical side."

Lynch worked with Charles Strong to create *White Rose Suite*. After spending time in Munich, Strong was profoundly affected by what he learned of the Nazi resistance movement. He took photos from his TV of a video about the movement, bringing them to Lynch in the form of transparencies. Strong wanted to use them somehow. "We started working with color schemes similar to Nazi uniforms. ... The prints have every bit of his emotion about the subject." ■

### LEARN MORE:

### PRINTER'S PROOF PANEL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27,  
1:00-2:00 PM

A panel featuring discussions between master printers and artists. Jennifer Lynch, Santa Fe artist, educator and owner of Lynch Pin Press, where she printed works by artists Earl Stroh, Ron Cooper and Ken Price among others. Steve Britko has over four decades of printing experience including at Tamarind Institute as the shop manager and master printer. He opened Naravisa Press in 1980, collaborating with a wide range of artists including Dan Namingha, Susan Rothenberg and Roy DeForest among others.

Opposite page: Dine, Jim, *Double Diana* 2009, 3-color lithograph, BAT lent by Bill Lagattuta. This page: Strong, Charles, *White Rose Suite* 2010 photopolymer color etching on Hahnemuhle paper, P.P. lent by Jennifer Lynch.

### ON VIEW

THE PRINTER'S  
PROOF: ARTIST  
AND PRINTER  
COLLABORATIONS

February 19 –  
May 15, 2022