

WHAT IS SCREENPRINTING ?

SCREENPRINTING IS A PRINT PROCESS WHICH USES A STENCIL AND MESH SCREEN TO MAKE MULTIPLE IMAGES. THE TEXTILE SCREEN WAS TRADITIONALLY MADE OF SILK BUT WAS REPLACED BY SYNTHETIC MATERIAL FOLLOWING THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

IT BEGAN AS A PRINT TECHNIQUE USED BY INDUSTRY IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY BEFORE BEING POPULARIZED BY ARTISTS IN THE 1960'S.

AMERICAN ARTIST ANDY WARHOL MADE MANY FAMOUS ARTWORKS USING THIS TECHNIQUE.

IT IS A VERSATILE PRINT PROCESS WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE A PRINTING PRESS, NOR DOES IT HAVE TO BE PRINTED FLAT. IT CAN PRINT ON A WIDE RANGE OF MATERIALS INCLUDING TEXTILES, PAPER, GLASS, TIMBER, METAL AND PLASTIC.

HOW IS SCREENPRINT MADE ?

A SCREENPRINT IS MADE BY FORCING INK THROUGH A STENCIL WHICH HAS BEEN ATTACHED TO A MESH SCREEN OF SILK OR NYLON. THE STENCIL MAY BE MADE OF ADHESIVE PAPER OR FILM THAT HAS BEEN CUT BY HAND, PAINTED DIRECTLY ONTO THE SCREEN USING A BRUSH OR SPRAY OR PREPARED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY.

THE IMAGE IS CREATED BY BUILDING UP LAYERS OF INK, USING A NUMBER OF SCREENS WITH DIFFERENT STENCILS EACH ONE USED TO PRINT A SEPARATE COLOUR. AN IMAGE IS CREATED WHERE THE INK PENETRATES THE STENCIL.