

Exploring the Velvety Blacks of Mezzotint - Course Outline

Instructor
Kath Rutherford

When and Where
Monday-Wednesday – 15-17 July 2019 –10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunbury Shores Art and Nature Centre

Day 1:

- Brief introduction to mezzotint engraving technique and history
- Selecting and transferring your design
- Working with the tools on a premezzotinted plate
- How to achieve a rich mezzotint ground.
- Choosing suitable images for the technique.
- How to get the brightest whites; Use of the scraper, burnisher and mezzotint rocker

Day 2:

- Scraping and burnishing the image
- Demonstration of printing a mezzotint.
- Proofing the finished plate
- Rocking your own plate (optional);
- How to get the full tonal range with printing techniques.
- The effect of different inks & papers on the printed image.
- Use and sharpening of the tools. Selecting the best papers and inks for mezzotint.
- Using the mezzotint rocker

Day 3:

- Reworking and Editioning the finished plate
- Using a mezzotint rocker to ground a new copper plate.
- Holding the rocker and keeping track of the rocking pattern.
- Selective wiping techniques to bring out the best in each image.
- Knowledge of what is involved in 'rocking' a mezzotint ground.
- Source list for materials
- Hand wiping techniques unique to mezzotint