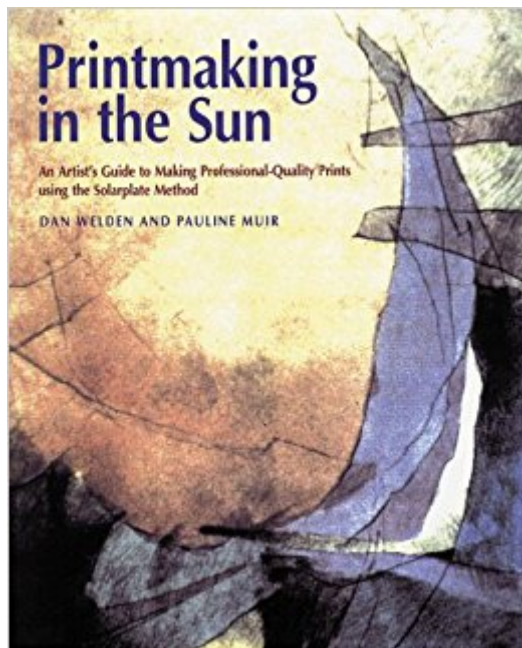


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# Printmaking In The Sun



## Synopsis

A highly expressive and versatile art medium is thoroughly examined in the first book ever devoted to the revolutionary solarplate printmaking process. In its great flexibility, this process gives artists a safe way to create professional-quality prints that resemble etchings, woodcuts, lithographs, screenprints, or photos. Clear instructions, diagrams, and photos are provided. Images by famous contemporary artists show the diverse ways of working in this rewarding medium.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Printmaking in the Sun introduces a revolutionary new printmaking technique known as the solarplate method, first developed in 1972 by one of the book's authors, Dan Welden. He had begun experimenting with light-sensitive polymer plates in place of traditional metal plates, which frees the artist from exposure to poisonous lead fumes. To make a solarplate print, one creates a piece of artwork on film, overlays it on a solarplate, and exposes the film and plate together in the sun. The drawing is transferred to the plate, which is then developed in ordinary tap water. The resulting image appears in the same orientation as the original drawing. This book exhaustively covers the techniques of solarplate printing, describing how to use the proper equipment and materials, prepare relief and intaglio images, make and print relief and intaglio plates, expose your work to the sun, use digital images and photogravure, and work with color printing. The book is generously illustrated with color and black-and-white solarplate images by accomplished artists, as well as clear step-by-step illustrations depicting how to prepare and process your images and plates. The book also contains a comprehensive glossary, selected further reading, and list of

suppliers in the United States and Australia. The innovative techniques described in *Printmaking in the Sun* form an enormous resource of versatile, imaginative applications. Artists of all levels will appreciate the fluidity of creative expression inherent in such a simple and immediate process.

--Mary Ribesky

The first printmakers were cave people who painted their hands and slapped them against cave walls. Today, printmakers like Ayres still use methods nearly as simple. Others, like printmaker and painter Welden, have created completely new processes, like his solarplate method. Monotypes, the subject of Ayres's book, are created by applying oil- or water-based paint to a flat plate. By pressing a dampened sheet of paper to the plate, a single print is made. The earliest such prints go back to Giovanni Benedetto Castiglione, around 1640. Later, Degas and Gauguin experimented with the method. Today, there is a virtual explosion of new ways to create monotypes. Ayres explores the work of a variety of such artists, who demonstrate imaging techniques, masks, stencils, collage, and mixed-media prints. The results vary from traditional images to eccentric, colorful fantasies. In 1972, Welden discovered that polymer printers' plates could be used in printmaking by exposing them to the sun. Draw on a transparency, place it over the plate, expose it to the sun, and the plate is, in effect, etched for printing. The method is now widely used, and Welden and Muir have produced the first book on this extremely versatile art. Both books are highly recommended. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Useful book though the actual technology of the process of solar printmaking has advanced since the book was written. So the book is way too expensive. There is a cheaper and more concise DVD that is more up-to-date.

My class enjoyed experimenting with this technique. The instructions in the book are quite clear. When I had a question I called the author and he went far beyond the call of duty to help. Note: creating large format prints with this technique is not simple due to the price of the plates and the size of the light-box which can be quite heavy to manipulate.

I splurged and bought this out of print book after looking at a library copy. It has very clear instructions and details, and while a bit dated in terms of today's solar print materials, has much good information. It really widened my limited view and knowledge about solar etching. Prepare for a big hit on your pocketbook however.

Although this seems like a lot of money for a paperback (textbook price) I think it is well worth it. I took a workshop with him about solar printing on glass some years ago. We got to sand the surface of the glass with an abrasive, do a drawing and expose it in the light box and print it on the etching press. I highly recommend this process as it eliminates all the chemicals used in zinc plate etching and the quality of the drawing on the glass reminds me of a lithograph. I am going to make a light box and start this process.

My over-riding impression after having just put this book down is "Why can't all How-to art books be of this quality?". Along with printing I also dabble with oils, watercolours, acrylics, pen and ink, and charcoal. As a self taught artist i find books to be a major source of my knowledge. With 250 art related books littering my shelves Welden's book is top of the pile. It is superbly written, passing on valuable knowledge of use to both the beginner and the more experienced printmaker. His co-author Pauline Muir is a trained scientist and maybe she's the reason for the straight-to-the-point approach as opposed to the fluff that litters so many other art books. Welden opens with an overview of the chemical mechanisms involved in the solarprint process. And then moves on to the details of what type of plate to buy, cutting, storing, exposure, materials etc. The relief and intaglio processes are covered next, in depth from creating the initial image through to printing the plates. Digital imaging, photogravure and various approaches for colour printing follow. Numerous tips are presented. An extensive list of eqpt suppliers is also provided. The book is well illustrated throughout and printed on good quality paper. Another excellent book from Watson & Guptill. Absolutely 100% recommended for anyone interested in the solarplate method.

Excellent book.

Great information well explained. Good guide to solar plate etching. interesting images and information for interested printmakers.I highly recommend it

Great book! I was inspired to travel to Palm Springs and take the workshop.

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