

WHITE-LINE WOODBLOCK PRINTS BY INGRID DAVIS AT PLAINSBORO LIBRARY GALLERY

Plainsboro Public Library – December 2018 – Ingrid Davis’ white-line woodblock prints are featured in a December exhibit at Plainsboro Library Gallery. This type of multi-colored print is made from one woodblock, with carved “white” lines separating the individual colored areas. Davis’ landscapes and still life prints are soft and vibrant; and the relatively simple compositions are enhanced by the detail of the woodblock’s grain. A reception will be held on Sunday, December 2, 2 – 4 pm, where visitors can take the opportunity to see samples of the woodblocks and the tools used; and to have the process explained by the artist (3pm). The exhibit runs December 1 to January 2.

The white-line woodblock print originated in Provincetown, MA, in 1917. The process of creating the print is a lengthy one. After a drawing is transferred to the block, the lines are incised with a knife so that each color area is separated from its adjacent color area by a grooved line. Printmaking paper is attached to one side of the block so that it folds over and back like a page (thus keeping subsequent color applications in register). Using watercolors, separate areas of the block are painted with a brush one at a time, the paper is flipped on top, and it is burnished with a paddle or spoon to transfer the color to the paper. The process is repeated until the print is completed, and the paper is removed from the block. The use of watercolor gives the print a translucence incorporating the grain of the wood into the design. Additional prints from the original woodblock can take on a different character by using different color palettes.

Ingrid Davis was raised in West Berlin, Germany, and moved to the US after her marriage to an American. Her early art training was in painting, and she primarily worked on oils and pastels. In 1976 she moved to Japan where she developed an interest in rice paper collage. Back in the US, a course in etching led to a fascination with printmaking, and eventually, a love for the white-line woodblock technique. She received her art education from the Art Students League, the Brooklyn Museum School of Art, and the Parsons School of Design, in New York. She has taught a week-long workshop of the woodcut process at the Star Island Conference on the Arts in Portsmouth, NH, and has exhibited widely in the US and Europe, in solo, invitational, and juried shows; receiving numerous awards for etching and white-line woodcuts. Davis has contributed to original print calendar collections through the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Georgetown University, The Smithsonian Museum of American History, and The Library of Congress (Washington DC). Her work can be found in collections in the United States, Europe, and the Far East.

The Plainsboro Library is located at 9 Van Doren Street, Plainsboro, NJ. Hours are 10-8:30 Monday - Thursday, and 10-5 Friday – Sunday. For more information, call 609-275-2897 or visit the website, www.plainsborolibrary.org.

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