Murray Zimiles: Noble Herd, 2003, 60 x 20 inches, digital

A Requiem for Traditional Printmaking
By Murray Zimiles

A new way of working: the Digital Revolution. Like it or not there is a revolution taking place, and it is changing the way artists think and work in every medium. In the field of printmaking, the shift has been most visible, and there is no more argument about it. It is now generally acknowledged that the digital revolution has arrived. As any traditional planographic surface.

Traditionally, printmaking techniques have been divided between planographic and intaglio methods. Intaglio involves penetrating the surface to be printed from by engraving with a tool or by etching. Planographic processes involve a separation of the image from the surface on which it is printed. Intaglio is often further divided into gravure, which involves etching with acid, and intaglio, which involves the use of various tools to remove material from the surface.

The contrast that to the expensive and enormous engraving machines that use metal or plastic plates is another advantage of digital printing. Intaglio involves etching or engraving the plate and is transferred to paper under pressure. The resulting image has the feel of hand printmaking, with the experience of hand printing. But digital printing allows for much greater accuracy and control over the printing process.

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