

Printmaking Quotes

The first of these were collected from the Mid America Print Council listserv in February, 2009. If you have any to contribute, you may submit them via email at nicole.geary@gmail.com

"The Power of the Press Belongs to Those Who Can Operate One."
submitted by Ruthann Godollei

"It is our efforts to make reality repeatable that Buddhism calls suffering."
- *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, posted on the door to the etching studio
submitted by Deborah Cornell

"Welcome to Bedrock."
- on the door of the litho shop at Boston University
submitted by Deborah Cornell

"Art, like life, should be free, since both are experimental."
- George Santayana
submitted by Conrad Ross

"You don't want to show the trick, you want to show the MAGIC."
submitted by Maritza Davila, about technique and content

"I go to my studio everyday because one day I may go and the angel will be there. What if I don't go and the angel comes?"
- Phillip Guston
submitted by Aline Feldman

"The folks who live in Backwards Town,
Are inside out and upside down.
They wear their hats inside their heads.
They take their walks across the ceiling,
And only eat the apple peeling."
- "Backwards Town", by Shel Silverstein
submitted by Henry Klein, who sees the poem as a metaphor for printmaking

"You can break my heart, but don't break my litho stone."
submitted by Michael Barnes

"It's Beer Print."
(in regard to printing the last print of the day)
- Art Werger, Ohio University
submitted by Connie Wolfe

"Etch the piss out of that plate."
- Doug DeVinny, UW – Parkside
submitted by Connie Wolfe

"Printmaking is like a man who treats you badly, but you keep coming back!"
- Jenny Mathews
submitted by Mark Anderson

"Make an impression... be a printmaker!"
submitted by Linda Whitney

"Most technical problems in the shop are happy accidents, sort of like making lemonade from lemons."
submitted by Susan Phillips Moffet

"Making art with printmaking is like trying to put on a condom while wearing boxing gloves."
- a performance artist
submitted by Timothy B. Dooley

PRINTMAKERS DO IT BACKWARD
- seen on a button
submitted by Lena Ellis-Boatman

"Do it nice or do it twice."
- Catholic grade school principal
submitted by Janet Ballweg, who learned about trial proofing from this edict

"Get your ink on."
submitted by E.C. Lyons

"Just look around. Print is EVERYWHERE!"
submitted by Dusty Herbig

"Come up and see my etchings."
submitted by Lena Ellis-Boatman

"How is golf like printmaking? They're both forms of masochism."
submitted by Lena Ellis-Boatman

"As my life drains away, like water in a graining sink, all I ask is that I leave a ring."
- an unknown altered source
submitted by Michael Barnes

"You must become one with the stone."

- Phil Chen, 1995 demo at the Art Institute of Chicago
submitted by Joe D'Uva

"Treat your plate as your lover, use gentle strokes."

- Fine Art Academy in Gent, Belgium
submitted by Peter Van Ael

"The stone is your friend. Don't give her acid, share a beer."

- Fine Art Academy in Gent, Belgium
submitted by Peter Van Ael

"Lithography is a contact sport."

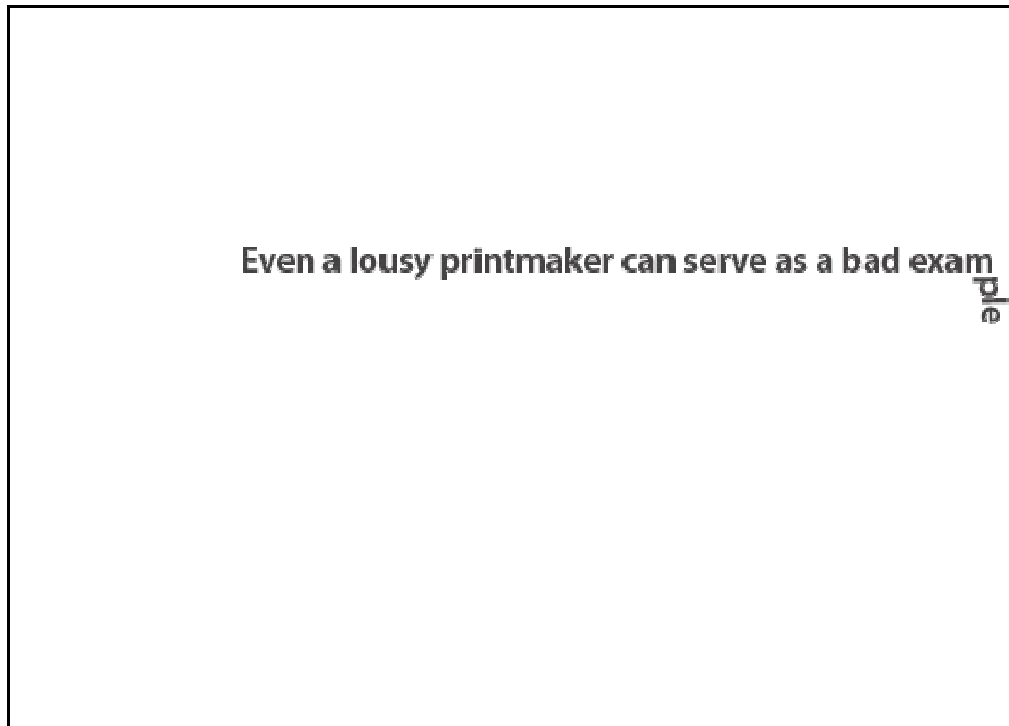
- Bill Walmsley, Florida State University
submitted by Beauvais Lyons

"Technical problems are learning opportunities. Remember, this is a teaching hospital."

submitted by Beauvais Lyons

"Print like a vicious dog!"

- E. C. Cunningham
submitted by Tom Robertson



- the Printmaking Studios at Arizona State University
submitted by Robert Lazuka

"Printmaking is fun because it takes a perfectly simple process like drawing and makes it as complicated and error prone as possible."

- George Bodmer

submitted by Julian Cox

"If you know what you're doing, you're wasting your time."

- Buckminster Fuller

submitted by John Schulz

Printmakers do it:

"...with more pressure."

"...under pressure."

"...under the blankets."

"...without wrinkling the sheets."

"...on a press bed."

submitted by Melissa Gill, Jaime Hackbart, myself (Nicole Geary), Julian Cox,
and JenClare B. Gawaran

"Illigitimus Non Carborundum:

Don't let the bastards wear you down."

submitted by John Schulz

"Print is dead."

- Dr. Egon Spengler, Ghostbusters

submitted by Steven Wirth

"Don't drop acid - Take it pass-fail."

- on a bathroom wall

submitted by Michael Barnes

"The 4 L's: Lithography, Lechery, Lethargy and Lunch."

- coined during a visiting artist gig at LSU

submitted by Cima Katz

"Printmaking, like sex, is not solely about reproduction."

submitted by Curtis Readell, Christopher Cannon, and Jeremy Cody.

Also heard as: "Printmaking, like sex, has not always been about reproduction."

"If you like doing something, isn't it better if it takes a long time?"

- Dave Bull, originator of barenforum.org

submitted by Sarah Hauser

"Someday my prints will come."

- on a poster (an image of someone's black finger prints) hanging in the Purdue
print shop

submitted by Melissa Gill

"If you can't do it in black and white, all the color in the world is not going to help."
- Robert Malone, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
submitted by Amy Schmierbach

"You have to be somewhere at 8 o'clock in the morning everyday of your life, you might as well be in the print shop."
- Fred Brian, Illinois Wesleyan University
submitted by Veda Rives, who recalls that "print shop" would be substituted for "studio" and "classroom" as needed.

"Inspiration is for amateurs! The rest of us get to work!"
- Chuck Close, SGC Keynote Address, Boston, MA 2004
submitted by Syd Cross and Dusty Herbig

In response to the question, "Do you ever paint or paint on your prints?"
"Why would I waste my time painting?"
- Dr. Eric Avery, Discussion at Highpoint Center for Printmaking, Minneapolis
submitted by Dusty Herbig

"Printmaking is all about deferred gratification."
submitted by Henry Klein

"The great thing about printmaking is that it brings the element of sport into artmaking."
- unknown
submitted by Matt Rebholz

"Remember, the visiting artist is always infinitely smarter than your professor."
- Ruth Weisberg, who was the visiting artist
submitted by Anita Jung

"Make every mark count."
- Mauricio Lasansky
submitted by Suzanne Chouteau

"Only half of what I do in here ever works out, so I just move twice as fast."
submitted by Caitlin Nolan

"In the behavior of our thoughts there is play in the system. Paths are only paths in retrospect. Unless one understands the elements of a complete system as a whole, one cannot understand them at all."
- Konrad Lorenz
submitted by Aline Feldman

"Nature uses only the longest threads to weave her patterns, so each small piece of her fabric reveals the organization of the entire tapestry."

- Feynman

submitted by Aline Feldman

"Every experience creates a new reality."

- Bill Moyers

submitted by Aline Feldman

"For me, there is no drawing surface like the Bavarian Limestone.....after graining and being the first human being to set his eyes on this layer of nature and drawing on its surface...the experience becomes a most beautiful seduction."

submitted by Dan Welden

"We like to tell guest artists who come down to print in our Guest Artist in Printmaking Program that 'we can register anything within a quarter of an inch.'"

submitted by Tom Druecker

When questioned about the exact reproduction of all prints in an edition, one should reply: "Why, are you going to buy two of them...?"

- Ken Hale

submitted by Tom Druecker

"Any job worth doing is worth doing quickly, so when you screw it up you have time to do it over again."

submitted by Sigrid Wonsil

"It is not true that life is one damn thing after another. It's one damn thing over and over."

- Edna St. Vincent Millay

submitted by Brandon Gunn, who mentions that it is a favorite for those long editions.

"When in doubt, print the color you're wearing."

submitted by Phyllis McGibbon

Also heard as: "When in doubt, print khaki."

"There's always someone who is going to do it better than you."

- Marvin Jones

submitted by Kim Laurel, who notes: "Artists sometimes get stars in their eyes and allow the ego to lead the motivation for their work. It is only natural.

Technique can become an objective crutch for the motivation to create. It straddles a delicate balance with subjective or authentic motivation.

Marvin's general teaching method verged on indifference, but that one comment was respected and remembered. "

"PRINT OR DIE"

submitted by Shelley Gipson

"The proof is in the proof."

submitted by E. C. Cunningham

"The act of printing has always seemed to me a miracle, just such a miracle as the growing up of a tiny seed of grain to an ear - an everyday miracle, even the greater because it happens everyday. One drawing is sown on the stone or the etching plate, and a harvest is reaped from it."

- from Van Gogh's letters

submitted by Jeremy Cody

"Printmaking is hard work."

- SIUC print studio, on a sign, in red, white, and blue, with USA map

submitted by Ray Noelle

"Printmaking rocks."

- origin disputed, Millikin University, ca. 2001, as a result of listening to the Stooges while printmaking

submitted by Ray Noelle

"You have to make your first 100 bad drawings before the guy next to you does"

- (possibly) Picasso

submitted by Art Werger

Also heard as: "You have to do your first 100 bad drawings before you can do your next 100 bad drawings."

"More Art, Faster!"

submitted by Art Werger

"Younger, less experienced artists borrow from other artists. Older, more experienced artists steal from other artists!"

- Wayne Thiebaud

submitted by Gordon K. Sherman