



Artist Biography

Sara Jehan began her art training on the east coast as a child. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Visual Communication, from the Maryland Institute, College of Art in 1994. Her studies also included a strong concentration in Illustration, followed closely by Printmaking.

After ten years working as a graphic designer for several newspapers and a decorative tin company, Sara has rediscovered her love for printmaking and creating fine art. This passion has been further fueled by her cross country relocation to rural Sonoma County. There, she has felt called to express the beauty, grace and elegance of the natural world around her. Often, these images are accented with decorative borders and framing spaces that create an intimate feel in the artwork. Currently, Sara's work can be viewed in multiple venues across the United States, and are included in many private collections.

Description of Technique

There are many kinds of printmaking. Sara Jehan concentrates on two, etching and relief printing.

In either technique, the end result is a set of images, called an edition. Usually the number printed ranges between 15 and 50 depending on the artist's choice or sales. Each image is signed and numbered to ensure authenticity and to guarantee the size of the edition.

Relief printing means that the artist cuts into the plate, cutting away the areas that will not carry ink to the paper. What is left, a raised surface, is what prints. These images are characterized by flat color areas and single colors or blends. Depth is created either by adding color later (with watercolor in Sara's case) or in the cutting and re-cutting of the plate. Positive and negative spaces are often manipulated as well.

Etchings are a form of Intaglio printing. In this case what prints is below the surface. The artist uses acid to cut a line in the metal plate's surface. Then ink is forced into the line by hand. The image is printed on a press that pushes the paper into the line to pick up the ink. This allows for a feel that is closer to drawing. Shading and a deep, rich color characterize these images. Color can be added either as the image is being printed, or afterwards with watercolor.

Artist Statement

My artwork celebrates the beauty I find in the world around me. Most often I am inspired by nature, especially plants. They have glorious colors, delicate form and an innocence that holds the heart. Other common themes of mine are birds, landscapes, still lives and things that make me smile. I chose to frame my images with decorative borders because they frame the subject, setting it off from the ordinary world.

In other words, I create a portrait of my subject in the same way other capture the human face. Each detail and quirk of personality must be portrayed; the way a portrait does for an old friend. Only the subject matter is different. My work invites the viewer to take a closer look and to become intimately acquainted with the subject or moment I am trying to capture

My technique is also a method of slowing down. Printmaking is a process that requires excellent drawing and composition skills as the artist works in mirror image to how the image will finally appear and must be able to envision how the art will appear when flipped.

Personally, I use printmaking techniques for two main reasons.

First, it's the plates. Creating a plate is an incredible tactile experience. If it's a relief print, you physically cut away pieces of material and have to consider how the texture and excess cutting will affect the image. You get to see what you're doing. If it's an etching, the texture on the metal magically appears after the plate is cleaned from the acid bath.

Second, you always have another chance to get it right. The aspect of multiples fascinates me. Each image is re-created with every sheet of paper. You get to make a part lighter or darker or a different color. Nothing is final. It's incredibly freeing.

In the end, I hope to offer you a view of how I see the world and its beauty and grace. Enjoy!