



Brett, Bear Creek Intermediate. *Diamonds*.
Tempera print from Plexiglas™ plate,
9 by 12 inches.

B

Printing Ink

After the design is on the plate, the printmaker applies a type of ink that is thicker and stickier than the ink for fountain pens. This **printing ink** covers the plate and is then transferred to the other surface, usually paper. The printmaker then *pulls the print* from the plate to see how it looks.



Techniques for Making Prints

Artists today have many ways to make prints. Two of the oldest and most popular techniques produce relief prints and intaglio prints.

Relief Prints

The technique of printing in which an image raised from a background is inked and printed creates a **relief print**, as in **A**. The plate for a relief print, often made of wood, has a carved surface that is inked and then printed onto paper or another surface.

Intaglio Prints

The technique of printing in which the image to be printed is cut or scratched into a surface is called **intaglio**, as in **C**. Most intaglio prints have fine, thin lines with fuzzy areas that create a soft and airy look. While relief print plates have raised surfaces covered with ink to be printed onto paper, intaglio print plates have grooves filled with ink pressed onto the paper.



C Karin Broker. *Boys 'n cat (notes of a mad girl)*,
1996. Photo etching, 11³/₄ by 14¹/₂ inches.



Making a Monoprint

Select a contour drawing of a figure or an object from your Sketchbook/Journal. This will become the subject of your **monoprint**, the print process creating one print at a time. Using dark values of crayon as your medium, transfer your figure or object onto a sheet of 9" x 12" gray construction paper.

Use a smooth surface, such as a cookie sheet or a tabletop, as your plate. With your finger, mix a teaspoon of liquid starch and white powdered tempera on the plate. Spread the mixture to become the size of your paper. Paint swirls, spirals, and other lines of a sky with your finger. Wash your hands. Place the drawing face-down on the plate, press gently, and pull the print. When it dries, create a foreground with oil pastels.



Sketchbook/Journal

Make notes beside your original drawing describing the steps you took to make a monoprint.