

A Technical Study of a Relatively Unknown Printing Process: Mixografia

ABSTRACT

This paper is a summary of a project undertaken to investigate the materials, manufacture, and subsequent treatment options for a collection of prints produced using the Mixografia process. The Mixografia printing method when compared to traditional techniques such as etchings, woodcuts, or lithographs is very unusual. The originators of this process still hold the patent; little is known about the materials and mechanism used to create these works.

To understand the development of this printing method, an art historical survey was conducted on the originating artist, Rufino Tamayo, and the printing studio, Mixografia Workshop, as well as the owner Luis Remba. Information on the events leading up to the collaboration and conception of the process has been well documented, but specific information on the actual printing process and materials used were limited. The descriptions provided by the Mixografia Workshop raised more questions than were answered.

A technical investigation was conducted to determine details regarding the manufacture of these prints. During this study some of the materials associated in making these works of art were identified, and a reconstruction of the printing process was devised.

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