



Downtown Artist Series @ Northville City Hall / Downtown Development Authority

Dennis Gordon – Ann Arbor, MI



Printmaking is a dynamic and versatile form of artistic expression that bridges tradition and innovation. It allows artists to explore repetition, texture, and process while communicating powerful ideas and imagery.

My background in printmaking has led me to explore new options in relief printing, specifically, woodcuts and wood engravings.

I take a digital image (photos I have taken, or photos of my paintings) and work to translate it to a dynamic and interesting wood engraved image. I send this image to my laser engraver to cut the images into wood plates.

I also began combining my painting background with the woodcuts by painting a background on printmaking paper, letting that dry, then inking up the wood plate and printing on that background. I usually apply the background painting with a brayer (rubber roller) so that it is a fairly loose and non-detailed background image, which allows the more defined woodcut print to dominate.

Once the black and white image for my woodcuts was developed, I began experimenting with engraving these or similar images into other materials, such as cardboard, leaves, wood and matboard. I sometimes combine these new engravings with my wood block prints.



To purchase art scan the QR Code or visit the online Artisan Store at www.northvillearthouse.org/store/, clicking on **Northville City Hall**.

For questions, to purchase art by phone, or to schedule a pick-up, call **248-344-0497** or email exhibits@northvillearthouse.org.

Northville Art House, Inc., 215 W. Cady Street, Northville, MI 48167
www.northvillearthouse.org | <https://nah-artisanstore.constantcontactsites.com/city-hall>

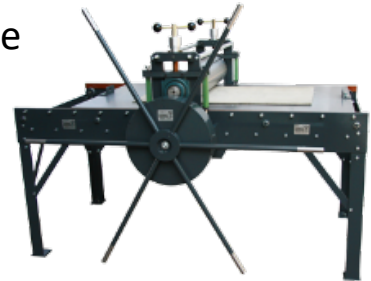


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Here are a few terms related to printmaking and Dennis Gordon's work.

Wood block prints, also known as *woodcuts*, are made by engraving an image into a wood plate. The image is actually the inverse and flipped of the image since the part that is cut out remains not inked. Ink is rolled on the surface and then transferred to paper or other material by running through a printmaking process.



Cut outs are created by using the image developed from designing the wood block prints. I bond two layers of matboard, paper or aluminum board and just cut out one layer. Even though this is done with a laser, it is a very delicate process as I want to just cut through one layer and leave the back layer intact.

My **wood engravings**, block prints, and plates are created from repurposing discarded furniture (mostly entertainment centers).

Matboard Overlays involve the following steps:

- (1) a wood cut image is engraved into a wood plate,
- (2) then inked and printed on paper with or without a painted background;
- (3) next the image is edited with software so the white spaces are connected,
- (4) then printed and cut onto a sheet of archival matboard slowly so the laser doesn't burn the matboard;
- (5) finally, this cutout is cleaned up and placed over the original image (from steps 1 – 2), separated by foam core to provide depth, then securely taped, matted, and framed.

To inquire more about the printmaking process, unframed wood block prints or other questions, please contact Dennis at dennishgordon@yahoo.com or visit www.dennishgordonartwork.com.

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