

# How to tell original prints from cheap reproductions.



Art Hansen's *October Sunset*, original lithograph. Signed limited edition of 175.

Buying original prints is an excellent way for the novice to make a modest investment in beautiful works of art.

The buyer had better beware, however.

As more and more attention is being given to art as an investment, more and more dealers are trying to pass off cheap reproductions as fine art.

At the Original Print Collectors Group, we sell only the original works to a growing number of people who are enthusiastic about buying good art at moderate prices.

One of our primary concerns is to educate our customers, so that they'll be able to discriminate and get true value for their money. A few pointers, then about original prints:

Original prints, whatever the process used to create them, are "hand pulled" under the artist's supervision, or by the artist himself. This means that any work produced photographically or by another purely mechanical process is not an *original* print.

If you examine a print under a magnifying glass and discover a regular pattern of small dots, you will know immediately that it is not an original work.

If the print is a serigraph (produced by silkscreen process), the ink will seem rather like paint and appear to be sitting upon (rather than absorbed into) the paper. Etchings and engravings will produce a physical impression on the paper itself.

Contemporary original prints will always be signed in pencil by the artist himself, to indicate personal supervision and approval of the individual print.

Original prints are always produced in limited editions, at the most several hundred copies. If thousands of copies are available, then the work is almost certainly *not* original. (In most cases, to assure that the integrity of their work is not-violated, artists will destroy the plate after the edition has been produced.)

The print will have a figure on its border, indicating the number of prints pulled and the number of the individual print in the sequence.

For example, the figure 50/100 means that the edition has been limited to 100, and that this is the 50th print pulled.



Marc Chagall's *Les Trois Bouquets*, original lithograph. Signed limited edition of 50.



Claude Gaveau's *En Course*, original lithograph. Signed limited edition of 175.

## Is the edition limited and is the print numbered? Did the artist personally sign the individual work?

There's a lot more to be learned about buying original prints, more than we can tell you on this page.

But if you'll send for our free color catalogue, we'll be happy to tell you more, and show you the quality and variety of the prints we offer.

They include limited edition etchings, serigraphs and lithographs by both contemporary and traditional artists with international reputations. Some examples: Calder, Chagall, Dali, Miró, Vasarely, Picasso and Renoir.

If you decide to buy a print, we'll frame it handsomely and send it to you with a full money back guarantee. If you're not satisfied for any reason, you simply return your print and get a full refund.

We'll also send you a catalogue, every two months, featuring new selections of prints, along with an informative newsletter.

If you're interested in investing in art, invest a 15¢ stamp in your art education and send for our catalogue, today.



Anton Cetin's *Eve*, original etching. Signed limited edition of 150.

**Original print collectors group, Ltd.** 

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