

## Screen Printing at Leeds Print Workshop

Leeds Print Workshop has facilities for textile and paper screen printing. We have 1 large vacuum table for paper screen printing along with 8 smaller portable print beds.

The central table in the workshop has a removable top for use when textile screen printing.

The workshop has a range of screens of varying sizes and mesh counts. These are currently available for members to strip, clean, coat and use. Technicians can help you coat and expose screens so you become independent in doing this. The cost of exposing a screen ranges from £2.50 - £10 depending on the size.

This cost helps us cover the emulsion, stripping chemicals and masking and parcel tapes.

There is no charge to hire a LPW screen, the cost is for the screen coating and exposure. Members may reserve a screen for 1 week by putting their name and the date they need it until on the side of the frame. LPW cannot reserve screens for longer than 1 week only, any screens dated for long periods will be stripped and reused. The screens are a shared resource and therefore we cannot guarantee the quality of them. We recommend purchasing your own screen to use in the workshop if you use screens regularly and edition prints.

The exposure unit in the workshop is large enough to expose an A1 image on a screen. We have developed a chart of exposure timings and instructions for use located on the wall by the exposure unit.

Please ask our staff or volunteers to show you how to use the exposure unit if you are unsure.

### Positives

A positive is the term for any artwork which you want to expose on screen. It is really important that the image you use is really dense black with no grey areas, and that it doesn't go grey when held up to the light. Ask a technician to show you examples if you are in doubt.

We recommend exposing tracing paper images (140 seconds exposure time), or acetates (120 seconds exposure time).

We have the facilities in the building to print onto A4 or A3 tracing paper (costing 15p per sheet). You can bring images with you on a memory stick or send them to print from an email.

Images can also be hand drawn on tracing paper or acetate - but again, the image needs to be as black as possible.

It is also possible to expose 80gsm paper printouts but this is for a much longer exposure time of 12 minutes and we advise being careful by washing gently without a spray gun and not using a sponge at all when washing the screen out, as the emulsion can be much weaker with an exposure using normal paper.

We recommend that ALL screen exposures should be post hardened for 2 minutes once the image is exposed and the screen is dry.

For any positives larger than A3 we recommend going to Hobs Reprographics in Leeds to get them printed. At Hobs they are aware of what our members will need for screen printing.

Please be aware that we do not know exact times for any positives which are on different types of paper and if you expose a positive which we do not recommend, the screen will still be charged for.

## **Inks**

For paper screen printing we supply system 3 acrylic inks and system 3 printing medium. We recommend these are mixed at 1 part acrylic to 2 parts medium.

For textile screen printing we sell pigments and binder FF. We recommend these are mixed at a ratio of 100g binder to 5g pigment colour. Both types of inks are £1.60 per small pot (approx 100g).

Textile inks will need heat setting afterwards in the heat press to make sure the inks are fixed and therefore washable.

The workshop supplies parcel tape, masking tape and newsprint paper for an open access session but all other materials will need to be paid for. Our staff and volunteers can offer advice on suppliers of equipment and materials if you wish to use something different than what we supply in the workshop.