

France Brodeur - A Lasting Passion

France is a French Canadian who was born and grew up in Quebec. In the early 80s she took a degree in Fine Art at Concordia University in Montreal where she discovered printmaking, her lasting passion. France has worked in various printmaking studios in Canada and Europe and she taught the technique of collagraphy in Montpellier in France. France then moved to England in the mid 90s and became a member of the Oxford printmaking cooperative where she enjoyed working with all the different forms of printmaking.



France gave us an insight into all the techniques she uses which made her audience fully appreciate her beautiful prints. As a fellow printmaker, I am always fascinated by how using these techniques in different ways can produce such amazing results.

I would like to be able to say that the AMA was very clever to arrange this talk to coincide with the Mini Print exhibition at the Pump Rooms, however it was just good luck! Members who heard the talk and have also seen the Mini Print exhibition will agree that, thanks to France explaining all the techniques she uses on her plates, the exhibition was made more enjoyable.

France illustrated these techniques with slides of her work and explained that she tries to draw the viewers gaze into the print and the more they look there should be even more to be revealed.

France talked about how each of her ideas were inspired by very different things. Her M40 prints, a series of 40 prints of views from places along the M40, was seeing the Warwickshire landscape side by side with, as she put it, a very English motorway. I found this series of prints fascinating and could feel the images of trees and fields flashing past me as I drove along the M40.



I also loved the way France broke up the images of figures, placing one outside the main frame. Many of her prints are full of colour like her Monoprints inspired by her visit to the Grand Canyon, which used the colours of the sand, stone and rock.

France hopes that when her prints are sold they give the buyer an image that as they look at it the more it will reveal. This was a wonderful talk and when we saw all the different techniques a printmaker has to use to achieve the image they want it makes it clear that printmaking is a very exciting medium to work with.

Moira Lamont

Website: <http://www.francebrodeur.co.uk/>