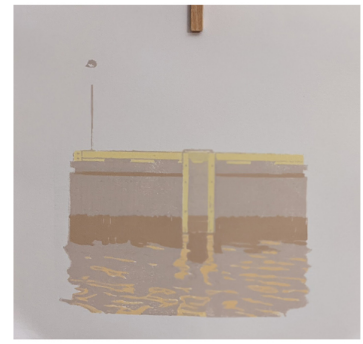
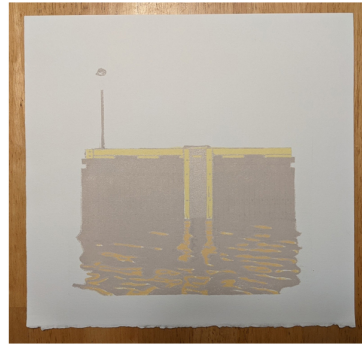


What is reduction woodcut?



Chris Batten's "Shelter from the Storm" reduction woodcut.

Woodcut is the one of oldest forms of printmaking. It is a relief process in which hand carving tools are used to cut into a wooden block's surface. After the the block has been cut, the raised areas are inked and printed, while the cut away areas that do not retain ink and will remain blank during the printing process.

The reduction woodcut process allows for one colour to be added at a time, usually from light to dark. After each printed colour layer, the remaining wood surface is cut to prepare for the next layer of printing. Each time the block is cut, there is less surface to work with, hence the term, *reduction* woodcut.