Impressit – The Litho Show

18th June to 30th June

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Lithograph : The design is drawn on the plate (traditionally, a slab of limestone but now, usually a thin sheet of zinc or aluminum) with a greasy crayon or ink; it is also possible to draw on film or special transfer paper, thus making it unnecessary to draw directly on plate. The basic principle of lithography is the antipathy of oil and water. The design is fixed with dilute acid which turns the visible surface mark into a latent images . The image is subsequently moistened with water which retained by the areas not affected by only by design. The plate is printed either directly (producing mirror images or a offset press containing a rubber roller that acts as an intermediary, picking up the design as it passes over the plate and transferring it to paper, thus producing an impression corresponding to the original design. This latter process is invariably used in conjunction with modern photo-lithography, means by which a design can be reproduced by projecting a transparent positive of it onto a plate coated with a light-sensitive chemical. The exposed areas harden whilst the unexposed areas remain soft and are receptive to ink.