

Franco Marinai  
Artist's Statement

My first prints were photogravures.

Photogravure is an old, complex and challenging technique that, because of the variations in the thickness of the ink, gives true continuous tones and results in the creation of a truly tri-dimensional object.

I started using photogravure after years of making experimental films in which I treated the film emulsion as a surface to work on, manipulating it frame by frame, scratching and painting it, to challenge the traditional mode of photographic representation and to draw the viewer's attention towards film as an object.

With photogravure I pursue the same objective, because a photogravure has a reality of its own that effectively replaces the reality of the photographic image on which it is based.

Making books with photogravures has added tactility to the prints.

Lately, I have also made use of mezzotint. Less rigorous and more forgiving than photogravure, it's a ductile method that gives me considerable freedom. I find it a great vehicle to express and illustrate my thoughts, and to give them a form that seems to emerge from the shadows.