

Elke Rehder

woodcut printing process



I am carving an image into a wooden plate.

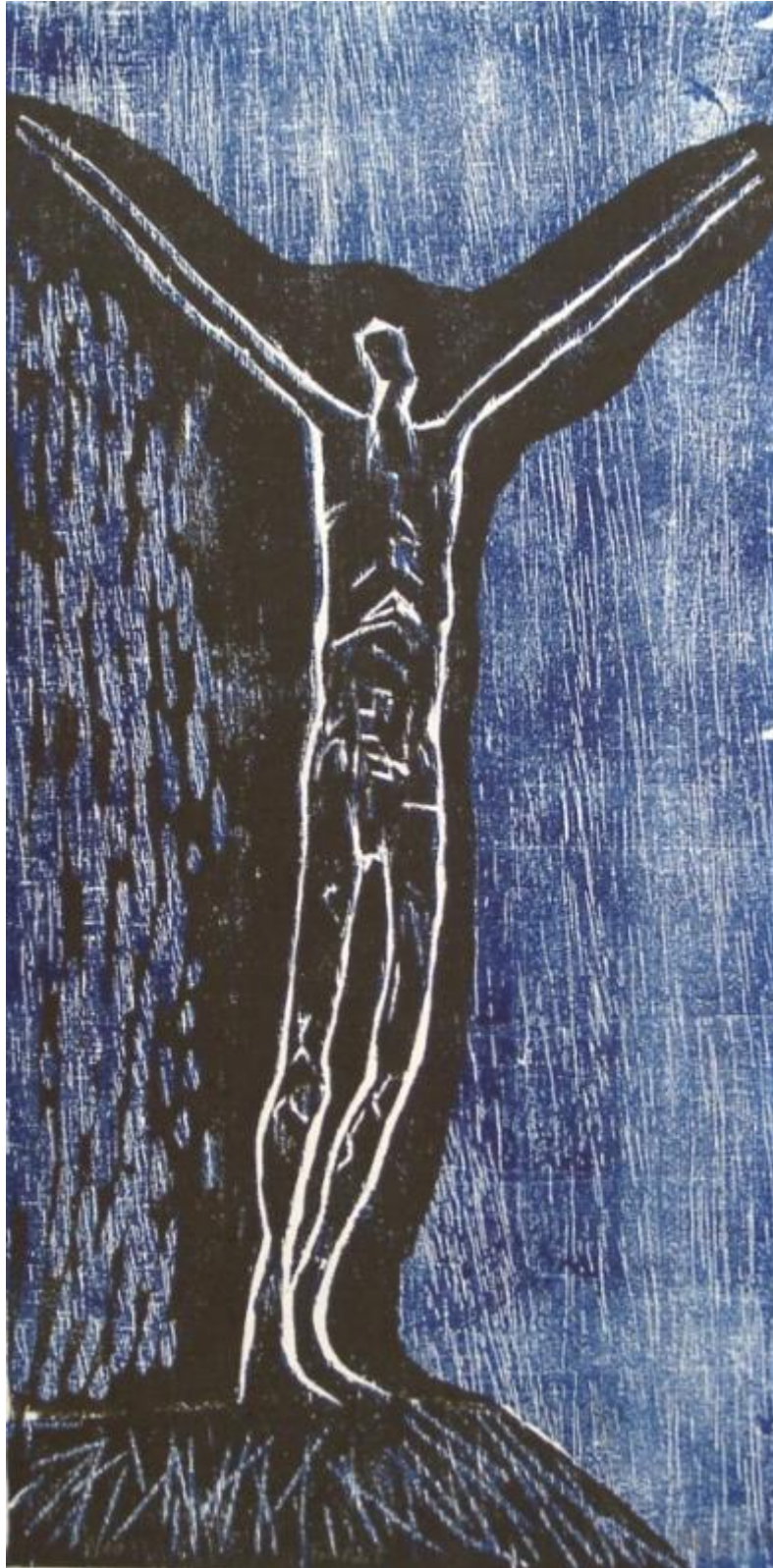
For each printing color I have to prepare a single plate.



I have to remove all the non-printing parts of this plate. Unlike wood engraving, I cut the block along the wood grain.



For the carving I use different handheld gouges.



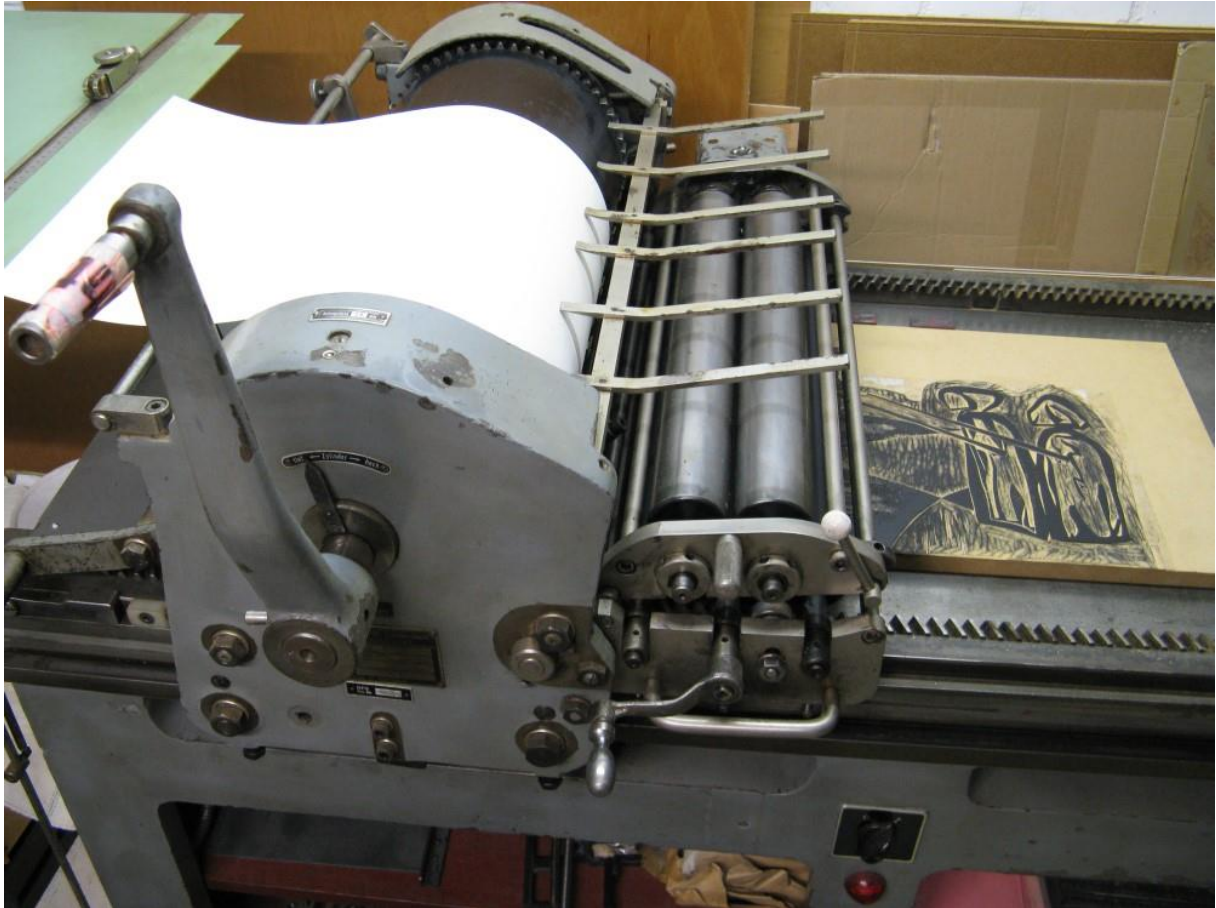
The ready woodcut printing from 3 plates (3 colors).



This is my old Korrex flatbed cylinder proof press, manufactured in 1961 by Max Simmel in Berlin.



It is a heavy press for printing letters and woodcuts.



A sheet of paper is picked up by the printing cylinder and rolls over the wooden block. The ink-covered rollers are leaving ink upon the flat surface but not in the non-printing areas.



I use a composing stick for typesetting and work from left to right and place the letters upside-down. Here you see the word "Schach" (Chess).





Here is a block of type tied up in the corner of a so called type galley.



„Und da ich nichts anderes hatte als dies unsinnige Spiel gegen mich selbst, fuhr meine Wut, meine Rachelust fanatisch in dieses Spiel hinein. Etwas in mir wollte Recht behalten, und ich hatte doch nur dieses andere Ich in mir, das ich bekämpfen konnte; so steigerte ich mich während des Spiels in eine fast manische Erregung.“

Farbholzschnitt von Elke Rehder zu einer Textpassage aus der „Schachnovelle“ von Stefan Zweig

A single-sheet print with a color woodcut from five plates (one plate for each color). The text in letterpress on the right is a quote from the chess story “Schachnovelle” (The Royal Game) by Stefan Zweig.