



Jerry B. Walters



Artist Statement

Since attending graduate school, my major concentration has been on the production of large-scale, hand-printed woodcuts. The relief process of woodcuts truly excites me. I think this is because the process seems to be one that combines the disciplines of drawing, sculpture, and printmaking. I create the matrix for my prints by composing a composition made of various sketches that I combine by drawing directly on a block of wood.

I have two main concerns that may help define the purpose of my work. First is my deep interest in the process of woodcut printmaking with all its intricacies. I strive to produce chiaroscuro: to suggest value, volume, and depth into an essentially two-dimensional medium.

My second concern is the challenge of drawing the human form and using the pose and background to convey moods and feelings. I am aware that shadows, values, and moods created in a particular pose are very transitory. By creating my prints, I hope to transcend this fleeting momentary aspect and give the scene an enduring value that leads to re-examination and further awareness.

I concentrate mostly on the human figure, trying to use the texture and dramatic contrast of black and white to create a feeling of modeling, movement, and depth to energize the image of the figure. I am not really concerned with symbolism or narrative content as I am concerned with expressive content.

I prefer working on a large scale not only because the image can impact the viewer, but the carving of the relief on a large scale makes the process even more sculptural. Also, this large scale seems to give the print a more painterly quality. The cutting of the matrix is a very sculptural process: using a variety of tools, the wood creates a very aggressive image. I am trying to achieve a liveliness and freshness to the printed image.

The real magic is still the pulling of the print, watching the image appear from the various cuts and gouges. My editions are small because of the labor-intensive process of printing by hand rubbing the paper's surface.