



## Carborundum

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**Carborundum Printmaking** is a collagraph platemaking process in which the image is created on the plate by painting carborundum (an abrasive grit) mixed with an acrylic medium. Once dried, the plate is inked, wiped and printed with an etching press in the same manner as other intaglio plates. Since the carborundum mixture is built up on the plate, the paper embosses when going through the press creating a rich velvety surface. The plates are strong and can be printed many times.

### About Carborundum:

#### Three Great Advantages to using Aluminum Oxide over Silicon Carbide

Carborundum is the trade name for Silicon Carbide (bluish black grit). Aluminum Oxide (brownish black grit) is recommended as an alternative.

1. Silicon Carbide is harder but it will fracture and break down quicker than Aluminum Oxide.
2. Aluminum Oxide is rounder in grain while Silicon Carbide is sharper in grain. When wiping the ink off the surface of the plate, the jagged grain of the Silicon Carbide may tear the tarlatan leaving behind small pieces of lint on the surface of the plate. Aluminum Oxide's rounded grain offers a smoother wiping process and decreases the problem of shredded tarlatan.
3. Aluminum Oxide is more economical. They are both available in the same grades ranging from fine to medium and coarse grits. Print results look the same.

## TONAL RANGE Printed Chart

Coarse	Medium	Fine	
			1 part Grit to 1 part Acrylic Medium
			1 part Grit to 2 parts Acrylic Medium
			1 part Grit to 3 parts Acrylic Medium
			1 part Grit to 4 parts Acrylic Medium
			1 part Grit to 5 parts Acrylic Medium
			1 part Grit to 6 parts Acrylic Medium
			1 part Grit to 7 parts Acrylic Medium
			1 part Grit to 8 parts Acrylic Medium

Printed by Catherine Kernan (detail)