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Serigraphy

In serigraphy, also called screen printing, a porous mesh screen receives the ink; the image is created by blocking off areas of the screen with an impermeable material to form a stencil that will not allow ink to penetrate. Meshes were originally made of human hair, and then of silk (hence the familiar term silkscreen), but nowadays most mesh is made of man-made fibers. The finely woven screen is stretched over a frame of wood or aluminum.

Masaaki Noda,
Retrojection, 2003,
serigraph, 30 x 22 inches
(76.2 x 55.9 cm). Courtesy
of the artist.

When screen printing, the printmaker uses a squeegee to force ink through the mesh openings and onto the printing paper. If the print will have more than one color, the first stencil is washed out of the mesh, a second stencil is drawn, and a second color is printed through the mesh. This process of printing one color at a time is repeated until the work is complete, and serigraphs can sometimes take more than a hundred different screen pulls to create all the hues required for the image.