Line Form Color

In 1944 Wittenborn Publishers produced a limited edition (25 copies,) portfolio of five Schanker wood block prints. Named *Line Form Color*, it had an introduction by noted Philiadelphia Museum of Art curator Carl Zigrosser. The prints were hand pulled by the artist.

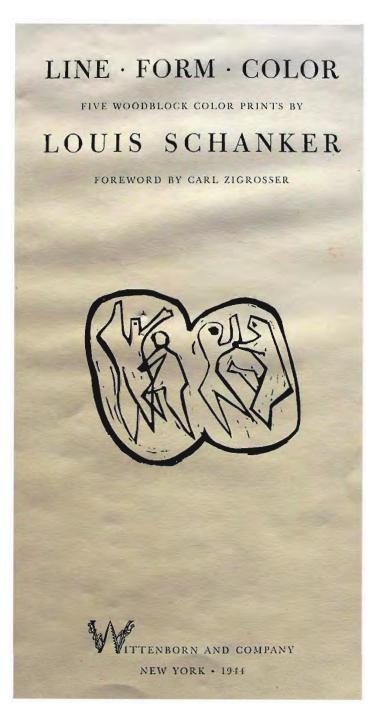
WITTENBORN ART BOOKS was founded in 1941 by George Wittenborn (1905-1974). The company was renowned as a publisher of important art books, notably *The Documents of Modern Art*, originally directed by Robert Motherwell, and as the preeminent art book store in America. (<u>Alan Wofsy Fine Art</u>)

The introduction was written by <u>Carl Zigrosser</u>. He published <u>Six Centuries of Prints</u> in 1937 as a primer on graphics collecting to educate novices in the field. The book was a monumental success and raised Zigrosser's reputation as a print authority. In 1941 he was appointed curator of prints, drawings and rare books at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, a position which he held until 1963. Zigrosser's was one of a number of early American curators who raised the public's awareness for graphics as a serious art form. The book went through numerous editions during Zigrosser's lifetime under a variety of titles: <u>The Book</u> of Fine Prints: an Anthology of Printed Pictures and Introduction to the Study of Graphic Art in the West and the East (1956) and <u>Prints and their Creators: a World History: an Anthology of Printed Pictures</u> [etc.] (1974).

In the introduction Zigrosser speaks of Schanker:

He is not an intellectual but rather an instinctive artist, a man of deep feeling expressing himself in formshaping line and patterns of subtle or exciting color.....The qualities of his art cannot be grasped didactically. Its appreciation is immediate and absolute, as with a cadence of music or the flash of movement in a dance.

The Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth Texas has a copy of the portfolio with excellent examples of the five wood block prints.



Here shall you trace in flowing operation, In every state of practical, busy movement, the rills of civilization, Materials here under your eye shall change their shape as if by magic. WALT WHITMAN'S Song of the Exposition

THE IMPULSE toward abstraction in art is not a new phenomenon. It is as old as humanity and can be seen in the caves of the stone age. Perhaps it is a deep-seated and primitive desire for order in a chaos of visual impressions, a symbol of permanence in the ever-varied experiencing of reality. Yet it is only in modern times that this urge has attained a conscious fulfilment. The advent of the camera, emphasizing as it does the mirror reflection of nature, brought about a deliberate revolt, as it were, against the literal, a new instrument for expressing feelings and relations impossible to suggest within the conventions of naturalistic art, and for recording in visual terms various experiences ranging from the intellectual precision of mathematics to the inarticulate stirring of emotions just over the threshold of consciousness.

Louis Schanker makes use of this idiom in his color woodcuts. He is not an intellectual but rather an instinctive artist, a man of deep feeling expressing himself in form-shaping line and patterns of subtle or exciting color. Thus in his work we see a gesture or a rhythm filtered through the memory, the telescoping of numerous separate visual impressions, the quest for the essential or universal. The qualities of his art cannot be grasped didactically. Its appreciation is immediate and absolute, as with a cadence of music or the flash of movement in a dance.

Carl Zigrosser

Table of Contents

1938

I. CAFE NO. 1

9 by 5½ inches. Printed from eight blocks in ten colors. The key block, printed in black, is cut in linoleum.

II. THREE MEN ON HORSEBACK 101/2 by 125/2 inches. Printed from eight blocks in eight colors.

1989

III. BROWN AND BLACK

77/8 by 97/8 inches. Printed from two blocks in two colors.

IV. NON-OBJECTIVE

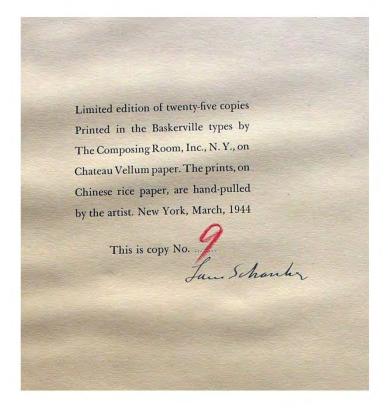
9 by 141/2 inches. Printed from seven blocks in seven colors.

1940

V. THREE FIGURES NO. 2

61/8 by 71/8 inches. Printed from six blocks in six colors.

Nore: Signature of the artist appears either as "Schanker" or "Louis Schanker," sometimes together with the artist's monogram (S within a circle) cut directly in the block.





New Search	Contact sheet	1 to	
Image	Accession Number	Creator	Title
	<u>1990.22.1</u>	Schanker, Louis	Cafe No. 1
	<u>1990.22.2</u>	Schanker, Louis	Three Men on Horseback
(C)	<u>1990.22.3</u>	Schanker, Louis	Brown and Black
	<u>1990.22.4</u>	Schanker, Louis	Non-Objective
	<u>1990.22.5</u>	Schanker, Louis	Three Figures No. 2
New Search Contact sheet 1			



New Search

1990.22.1 - Schanker, Louis - Cafe No. 1 - 1938					
		Cafe No. 1			
Accession Number	1990.22.1				
Collection	Prints				
Object Type	Relief prints				
Title	Cafe No. 1				
Parent Title	[from the portfolio "Line, Form, Color"]				
Creator	Artist Published by	<u>Schanker, Louis</u> Wittenborn & Co	<u>.</u>		
Date Details	Type Date of Object	Date Create	ed		
Medium	Color woodcut				
Measurement Details	Type Image Height Image Width Sheet Height Sheet Width	Value 9 5 1/2 11 1/2 7	Unit inches inches inches inches		
Current Location Storage					
Credit Line	Amon Carter Museum o	f American Art, Fo	rt Worth, Texas		
Copyright	©1944 Lou Siegel				





New Search

1990.22.2 - Schanker, Louis - Three Men on Horseback - 1938				
Three Men on Horseback				
Accession Number	1990.22.2			
Collection	Prints			
Object Type	Relief prints			
Title	Three Men on Horseback			
Parent Title	[from the portfolio "Line, Form, Color"]			
Creator	ArtistSchanker, LouisPublished byWittenborn & Co.			
Date Details	TypeDate CreatedDate of Object1938		ed	
Medium	Color woodcut			
Measurement Details	Type Image Height Image Width Sheet Height Sheet Width	Value 10 1/16 12 5/8 11 1/4 13 1/2	Unit inches inches inches inches	
Current Location	Storage			
Credit Line	Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas			
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New Search

1990.22.3 - Schanker, Louis - Brown and Black - 1939				
Brown and Black				
Accession Number	1990.22.3			
Collection	Prints			
Object Type	Relief prints			
Title	Brown and Black			
Parent Title	[from the portfolio "Line, Form, Color"]			
Creator	ArtistSchanker, LouisPrinted byWittenborn & Co.			
Date Details	Type Date of Object	Date Created 1939		
Medium	Color woodcut			
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Current Location	Location Storage			
Credit Line	Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas			
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New Search

1990.22.4 - Schanker, Louis - Non-Objective - 1939				
Non-Objective				
Accession Number	1990.22.4			
Collection	Prints			
Object Type	Relief prints			
Title	Non-Objective			
Parent Title	[from the portfolio "Line, Form, Color"]			
Creator	Artist Published by	Schanker, Louis Wittenborn & Co.		
Date Details	TypeDate CreatedDate of Object1939		d	
Medium	Woodcut			
Measurement Details	Type Image Height Image Width Sheet Height Sheet Width	Value 9 1/16 14 1/2 11 5/8 16 1/2	Unit inches inches inches inches	
Current Location	ent Location Storage			
Credit Line	Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas			
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New Search

1990.22.5 - Schanker, Louis - Three Figures No. 2 - 1940				
Three Figures No. 2				
Accession Number	1990.22.5			
Collection	Prints			
Object Type	Relief prints			
Title	Three Figures No. 2			
Parent Title	[from the portfolio "Line, Form, Color"]			
Creator	Artist Published by	Schanker, Louis Wittenborn & Co.		
Date Details	Type Date of Object	Date Create 1940	d	
Medium	Color woodcut			
Measurement Details	Type Image Height Image Width Sheet Height Sheet Width	Value 6 1/16 7 1/8 8 1/2 8 1/2	Unit inches inches inches inches	
Current Location	nt Location Storage			
Credit Line	Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas			
Copyright	©1944 Lou Siegel			

