

John Joseph Costello

Artist Statement

I draw and print for slowness, and to capture the awe-dread in our world, to feel and wonder. I can sit in the power I am trying to create, whether pride, courage, lack thereof, or fear.

For this, Intaglio etching is my favorite. Working through stages of material preparation, drawing, then printing results in a feeling of distance from that original image which encourages my patience.

Printing etchings is time consuming. Historically it played a large part in spreading the idea of the atlas, the impossible goal that nature can be fully comprehended through maps, charts and currencies. This was done through an assembly line of skilled craftsmen of various trades, so choosing to do these things as individual artists imbues etching with a sort of humor. It invites the question of what else around us is the result of an undocumented collaboration of labors which we may not understand but still live in.

Bio

John Joseph Costello is a creative printmaker from Plymouth, MA who currently lives and works in Portland, Maine. He graduated from Maine College of Art and Design in 2018 with a BFA in printing, afterwards working in the facilities department at MECA&D. He makes his prints at Peregrine Press on Pleasant Street.

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