



Digital Alchemy: Printmaking techniques for fine art, photography, and mixed media (Voices That Matter)

By Bonny Pierce Lhotka

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In *Digital Alchemy*, acclaimed printmaker Bonny Pierce Lhotka shows how to turn your standard inkjet printer into a seemingly magical instrument capable of transforming your printed images into true works of art. Using plenty of visuals and straightforward terms, Lhotka walks you step-by-step through over a dozen projects. Forget printing on boring old paper, in *Digital Alchemy*, you'll learn how to transfer and print images to a variety of surfaces including metal, wood, fabric, stone, and plastic using the techniques Lhotka's spent years developing.

If you're a photographer looking for new ways to personalize your work or a digital artist who's ready to take your work to the next level, you'll find all of the tools, techniques, and inspiration you need in this book. Lhotka's enthusiasm for experimenting with unusual printing materials and processes has led her to create new and amazing transfer techniques, including one that resembles a Polaroid™ transfer on steroids. She also shows you how to make prints using unexpected, everyday materials such as hand sanitizer and gelatin. You'll even learn direct printing, the technique for sending your custom substrate through your printer almost as if it were paper.

In *Digital Alchemy*, you'll learn how to:

- Transfer images to metal, wood, plastic, and other materials that will not feed through an inkjet printer
- Print directly on metal for a fraction of the cost of using a print service
- Simulate a print from an expensive UV flatbed printer using an inexpensive desktop printer
- Use carrier sheets and paintable precoats to print on almost any surface
- Achieve near-lithographic quality digital prints with transfer processes to uncoated fine art paper

In addition to the tutorials in the book, you can watch Lhotka in action on the

included DVD-ROM, which has over 60 minutes of video footage where you'll learn how to perform an alcohol gel transfer, transfer an image to a wooden surface, use your inkjet printer to achieve remarkable prints, and more. Simply insert the DVD-ROM into your computer's DVD drive. Note, this DVD-ROM will not work in TV DVD players.

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Editorial Review

From the Author

Hi,

This is Bonny Lhotka, I wrote *Digital Alchemy*. I'd like to take a moment and respond to some of the questions that have been posted here about the book. *Digital Alchemy* is the product of almost 20 years of research, experimentation, and investigation into hundreds of different processes and products. I've ruined blenders, printers, and more prints than I can count, but along the way I discovered techniques for creating truly original, one-of-a-kind prints. I wrote *Digital Alchemy* to share these techniques with you.

First, let me acknowledge that I do have access to high-end equipment, but in writing the book I wanted to share these processes with all of you who are interested in exploring new ways to be creative with your art. So, I made sure that each of the processes in the main section can be completed on relatively inexpensive desktop printers (even some multi-function office printers work). There are exceptions--like the advanced techniques using industrial lasers and UV printers--but these are exceptions. You will not need high-end equipment to use the majority of the techniques that I outline in my book. However, if you *dowant* to try out the advanced techniques, you can often get access to the necessary high-end equipment at print shops in major cities (there's one in Denver that I use for my own work).

As I began experimenting with my art and trying out different products and pre-coats (many not readily available to the public), mixing them together and seeing what they would do--or laughing at the pile of nasty goo that I created--I discovered that no single pre-coat did everything that I wanted it to do. With that realization, I spent years, literally *years*, creating one that would. Are there alternatives? Sure. And I talk about a couple of them--like Rabbit Skin Glue--in the book. Rabbit Skin Glue works for some processes, but not others, and has serious limitations. Inkaid, which I also helped to develop, and Golden Digital Grounds also work for some, although not *all*, of the techniques in the book.

Given the limited space in the book, I focused on teaching the techniques, rather than discussing all of the different products (which may disappear or get reformulated at any moment), and explaining which ones work for which processes and with what limitations (I think I'd have needed a pull-out wall chart for that). It was much simpler to talk about one product that did everything (and I'd rather have one bottle in my studio than a half-dozen anyway). For some processes though, like SuperSauce transfers, the product *is* the process. I could have kept that secret to myself and my art, but I decided that I'd rather share it with all of you for use in your own creative work--and there are some amazing things being done with it.

More importantly, though, when I co-authored my first book, that work included a number of product references that quickly became outdated either because a product was reformulated or discontinued. That not only caused a lot of challenges for readers (and a lot of email), it also prevented me from delivering on my own commissions because I couldn't get the products either! I wanted to make sure that artists wouldn't suffer that confusion and pain--that's what DASS is for, so that artists will have a reliable long-term supply of products that just work. With DASS, I wanted to get the materials out of the way so that artists could focus on their art.

And that's what it's all about anyway--the creative process, not the products. I invite everyone to read *Digital Alchemy* and, as I say in the book, by all means, please try other products if you'd like. Tweak the

techniques, play around, explore, experiment, and have fun! Find a creative process that works for *you*. Just don't blame me if you destroy a blender or two in the process.

Best,
Bonny

From the Back Cover

About the Author

An inventor and innovator, Bonny Pierce Lhotka is a co-founder of the digital artist collaborative, Digital Atelier, whose members research and develop techniques to leverage digital imaging in fine art application. Lhotka organized “Digital Atelier: A printmaking studio for the 21st century” at the Smithsonian American Art Museum where she was an Artist-in-Residence for three weeks. She is a recipient of the Smithsonian/Computerworld Technology in the Arts Award and is the producer of educational DVDs from Digital Art Studio Seminars.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Deborah Ellefson:

This Digital Alchemy: Printmaking techniques for fine art, photography, and mixed media (Voices That Matter) book is just not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is actually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This Digital Alchemy: Printmaking techniques for fine art, photography, and mixed media (Voices That Matter) without we know teach the one who reading through it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't end up being worry Digital Alchemy: Printmaking techniques for fine art, photography, and mixed media (Voices That Matter) can bring any time you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even cellphone. This Digital Alchemy: Printmaking techniques for fine art, photography, and mixed media (Voices That Matter) having great arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

William Threatt:

The reason? Because this Digital Alchemy: Printmaking techniques for fine art, photography, and mixed media (Voices That Matter) is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will zap you with the secret it inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who write the book in such wonderful way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book have such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were being you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

Delores Moretti:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Digital Alchemy: Printmaking techniques for fine art, photography, and mixed media (Voices That Matter), you can enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Dana Vinson:

On this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to experience a look at some books. Among the books in the top collection in your reading list is definitely Digital Alchemy: Printmaking techniques for fine art, photography, and mixed media (Voices That Matter). This book that is qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking upwards and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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