Hayter test plate production
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Let’s start with Hayter’s print:

Stanley William Hayter
Cascade, 1959

Open bite etching;
• printed in black (intaglio),
• blue-pink-blue gradient (relief),
• yellow and green, unblended (offset, relief)

Plate: 489 x 489 mm. (19 1/4 x 19 1/4 in.)
Baltimore Museum of Art: Purchased as the gift of the Print, Drawing & Photograph Society,
BMA 2008.112
Stanley William Hayter
*Cascade*, 1959
Open bite etched zinc plate
Plate: 489 x 489 mm. (19 1/4 x 19 1/4 in.)
Baltimore Museum of Art: Gift of Desirée Hayter,
Paris, BMA 2014.40

Stanley William Hayter
*Cascade*, 1959
Open bite etching;
• printed in black (intaglio)
Plate: 489 x 489 mm. (19 1/4 x 19 1/4 in.)
British Museum, 1989.617.226
Stanley William Hayter
Three impressions of *Cascade*, 1959, from the British Museum

Variations in ink colors
Various details of Cascade
Shafer/Ludwig/Levy test plates in production
Cross section of a plate

Intaglio, wiped in stiff black ink

Relief, blue/pink/blue ink (modified with small amount of linseed oil) rolled on with soft roller

Relief, green and yellow ink (modified with ample linseed oil) rolled on with hard roller
Step 1. Test plate is inked in black (intaglio). Ink clings to the canyon walls with a bit sitting on the canyon floor.
Step 1 result—plate is inked in black (intaglio).
Step 2. Test plate is inked with a soft roller carrying a blue/pink/blue gradient. Ink reaches the canyon floor.
Step 2 result—plate is inked in black (canyon walls) and with blue/pink/blue gradient applied with a soft roller (canyon floor).
Step 3. Glass palette is rolled with green ink with splotches of yellow added in random placement. The pattern is offset onto a hard roller in a single pass. It is deposited onto the plate in a single pass, hitting the plateau.
Step 3 result—plate is inked in black (canyon walls), with blue/pink/blue gradient applied with a soft roller (canyon floor), and with unblended green and yellow ink applied with hard roller (plateau).
Open bite etching;

- printed in black (intaglio),
- blue-pink-blue gradient (relief rolled using a soft roller),
- yellow and green, unblended (relief rolled using a hard roller)

Hayter’s print

Our test prints