



Fall 9-9-1980

Immediate Release : Collection of Prints by Rupert Kilgore for Exhibition in Merwin Gallery

Ed Alsene
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Alsene, Ed, "Immediate Release : Collection of Prints by Rupert Kilgore for Exhibition in Merwin Gallery" (1980). *News and Events*. 7255.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/7255>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 9, 1980 jb

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--A collection of prints made from color woodcuts by Rupert Kilgore will open the exhibition season in the Merwin Gallery at Illinois Wesleyan University at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14.

A reception will be held from 3-5 p.m. Sunday. Thereafter, the gallery will be open free to the public during regular hours, which are 1-4 p.m. every day and 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays.

Kilgore, who was director of the school of art at Illinois Wesleyan from 1948 until his death in 1971, considered himself something of a pioneer in the medium of woodcuts by the "subtractive or reduction" method. He devoted the last decade of his life to this art form which used a single block of white pine about one inch thick.

Any white area in the finished print was cut away from the block before a color was applied. When the first carving was done, the surface was inked and the first printing made. Then the block was cleaned of that color, a second carving was made and a second color of ink applied and then printed. This continued until the final color had been applied to the print. There may be from five to 12 colors in a single print.

No press was used for the printing, however. That was accomplished by hand rubbing with a hard, smooth rounded surface. Fred Brian, one of Kilgore's close friends and colleagues at Illinois Wesleyan, recalled that Kilgore may have used the back of a spoon. Brian said a glass jar also works very well. The more the print is rubbed the purer and deeper the color becomes.

There is no turning back, though. In the reduction process, the block is gradually carved away. Alterations are possible only as each new step is started.

Once a step is completed, there is no retrieval.

According to Kilgore's widow, Betty, "he helped develop the process. He knew of only one other person in the United States who worked in the medium, although they never met.

"Of all the media he worked, woodcuts were his favorites," she said. "He did a lot of drawing creating image ideas before he ever started on the woodcut itself. What excited him most was not knowing just how each color would react with earlier colors."

Kilgore was born, raised and educated in Indiana. He studied music and art at DePauw University and Ball State Teachers College and then taught music and art in public schools in Indiana. He earned a master's degree in art at Iowa State University and came to Illinois Wesleyan in 1946.

His prints, paintings, drawings and sculpture have been exhibited nationwide. His work is included in many private collections and in permanent collections of many colleges and universities.