

So, what's all this about printmaking?

Here's our guide for a day of world-class printmaking exhibitions in Newcastle

If you're new to printmaking and don't know your arts from your etchings International Print Biennale lets you immerse yourself in the world of printmaking and find out how and why artists make prints. Not only is there a whole host of exhibitions there are also films, talks and special events.

You could begin by watching the [Glossary films](#) online which give an introduction to a range of printmaking processes through the eyes of seven artists. One of them, Tom Hammick is exhibiting at Vane, Newcastle.



There's lots of great images to see and ideas to connect with as part of International Print Biennale, but if you want to get to know a bit more about printmaking why not try looking out for prints using the same printmaking processes by different artists and think about how each artist has made it their own.

There's a Glossary of Printmaking [here](#). Read the labels next to each print, processes you could look out for are:

- Woodcut
- Linocut
- Etching
- Screenprint
- Drypoint

Here's our suggested itinerary

Starting your day in Newcastle we recommend beginning with a late breakfast at [Tyneside Bar Café](#), served from 10.00 to 11.30 weekdays with an excellent brunch menu on Saturdays

from 10am to 5pm. This gives you a bit of quiet time to plan your route and is just across the road from [Vane](#) which opens at 12 noon from Wednesdays to Saturdays.

Vane is one of three galleries exhibiting the [2016 Print Awards](#) and presents the work of 12 international artists. You can also see the work of two invited artists (chosen by our selectors for the quality of their work), [Marina Bindella](#) (Italy) and [Adam Saks](#) (Denmark).

At Vane why not focus on the woodcuts and linocuts. These are relief print processes where the surface of the printing block has been cut into and then ink rolled across the surface before printing. Examples of this technique can be seen in the works by Marina Bindella, Adam Saks, Zenon Burdy, Tom Hammick and Georges Wenger. Marina Bindella and Georges Wenger have used one colour of ink for each print, the other artists have used a range of colours.

The prints by Kevin Frances are also woodcuts – but these use the traditional Japanese woodcut technique. These have a much more delicate feel and printed using watercolours rather than heavy oil-based inks.

Keeping in mind the Japanese woodcuts head across to [Newcastle City Library](#). Here you can see more prints using Japanese woodcut techniques, this time combined with drypoint by American artist Ellen Heck. Head up to the first floor and you'll find five prints that make up her suite '[A Small Production of Alice in Wonderland](#)'. Also showing here is 'Scrum Print' – officially the world's longest linocut. There's a film about the making of this print [here](#).

Leaving the City Library behind head towards [Gallery North](#) (previously known as University Gallery) at Northumbria University. It's about a 7-minute walk. On your way you might want to call into [Gallagher and Turner](#) to see screenprints from London-based [Advanced Graphics](#).

At Gallery North you can see more of the Print Awards artists – you're probably starting to spot woodcuts and linocuts now – how about looking at how Takuji Hamanaka and Senye Shen have chosen to present their prints? Make sure you have plenty of time to enjoy invited artist Cornelia Parker's work here too. There's a wonderful [interview with the artist](#) you can watch online too.

After the exhibition at Gallery North and you might be in need of a sit down and a cup of tea so we recommend the nearby [Quilliam Brothers' Teahouse](#). Cut across by the Centre to get here. It's not far from [Great North Museum: Hancock](#) which not only has a display about Thomas Bewick, arguably Northumberland's greatest artist and naturalist (he made wood-engravings) you can also see woodcuts by Norwegian artists [Annette and Caroline Keirulf](#).

So – sustained by tea and scones the next venue on our list and the third and final Print Awards gallery is [Northern Print](#) in Ouseburn. This gem of a gallery is also the organiser of International Print Biennale and home to a printmaking studio used by the region's printmakers.

It's about a 20-minute walk so you might prefer to get the [Q3 bus](#) from John Dobson Street or Haymarket to Lime Street. It's still a bit of a walk from Lime Street stop (uphill too!) but there is parking and cycle racks at Northern Print – and a warm welcome and some fabulous artworks await you.

Northern Print is the place to see work by the remaining Print Awards artists as well as taking time to look through the viewing window into the studio at the printing presses and ask the staff any questions about printmaking you might have. They spend all their time working in a print studio so should be able to answer any questions you might have – and if they can't they'll know someone who can.

If you have any energy left head up to [The Biscuit Factory](#) (a stone's throw from Northern Print) to see [Small Print International](#), organised by our fellow print studio [Leicester Print Workshop](#).

If you feel ready to have a drink and reflect on your day try one of the popular bars and pubs in Ouseburn – there's [The Cluny](#), [The Ship](#), [Ernest](#) or [Hotel du Vin](#) to name just a few!

Note: please check opening times and dates before setting out.

NewcastleGateshead Initiative have lots of great [downloadable maps](#) and guides as well as great information about visiting the city and surrounding area and what else to see and do while you're here. Check out their [website](#).