



PRESS RELEASE
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The art of giving - Handmade linocut prints inspired by the Yorkshire countryside

From views of well-known Yorkshire landscapes to favourite British wildlife and birds, Yorkshire-based artist Michelle Hughes creates handmade linocut prints with clean lines and a simplified colour palette.

"I spend my weekends between York and Ilkley. They're perfect jumping-off points for exploring the Yorkshire Dales, Coast, Wolds and North York Moors. They're a walkers and cyclist paradise!" says Michelle

Michelle uses her camera to document her favourite views along the way. "I'm drawn to colours and shapes in the landscapes first and foremost. I look for lines in the landscape such as pathways, dry stone walls and hedgerows, which lure my eye through the view. I'm inspired by colour too and imagine how I can translate these colours into a variety of reduced colour palettes through my prints. The same view can look very different as colours change through the seasons."

Back in her studio, Michelle sketches ideas for her linocut prints based on these photos. She distils the views down to create simpler graphic shapes in a limited colour palette. "It's not as simple as it looks to create the essence of a well-known place in just three or four colours."

Once she's happy with her ideas, she carves the design into blocks of traditional artist's linoleum, one for each colour to be printed. There are a few ways of creating a multicoloured linocut print. Michelle uses the multi-block technique, where one block is carved for each colour within a print. Once carved, oil-based ink is applied to each lino block using a roller. The vegetable oil-based inks she uses are made by a York-based family-run business Hawthorn Printmaking Supplies. After placing the paper onto the inked-up block, it's wound through a hand-turned press to transfer the ink onto the paper. The process is repeated for each colour within a print, leaving a few days of drying time between colours. They take weeks to make.

The result is a series of limited edition prints that celebrate some of Yorkshire's most memorable views.

What her customers say:

"The prints capture the essence of some places I've known since childhood."







"I love how your work so beautifully captures the spirit of a landscape through its textures, patterns and shaping."

"The scenery makes me feel nostalgic and soothes my soul."

"We will hang them where we can see them everyday to remind us of a special place."

Buy Michelle's original linocut prints through her online shop or learn how to make linocut prints yourself through her workshops and online courses. www.michellehughes.co.uk

Linocut prints | Workshops | Online courses
michellehughes.co.uk

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Yorkshire Coast



Yorkshire Dales



North York Moors



British Birds



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- Contact Michelle for high-res images and alternative aspect ratios.
- Examples of additional images
michellehughesdesign.com/press

- Michelle is 52, lives in York and has worked as a professional linocut artist for 7 years and a designer for over 30 years. She started her own business in June 2016.
- Michelle exhibits her work at York Open Studios, her open studio events, galleries and print fairs such as the York Printmakers Print Fair.
- Read about her creative journey at michellehughesdesign.com/about



Michelle Hughes DESIGN



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