

Robert Young

(Canadian, 1938 -)



Bebop, 2014

three-plate, five-colour etching, ed. 40

image: 19" x 14"

paper: 25.5" x 20"

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Robert Young (Canadian, 1938 -)

Robert Young was born in Vancouver in 1938. He graduated from UBC with a B.A. in art history in 1962. He taught painting and drawing at UBC from 1982 to 1998. He has had solo exhibitions at Simon Fraser University and The Evergreen Centre, the Burnaby Art Gallery (2009), the Vancouver Art Gallery (1989), the Charles H. Scott Gallery (1984), Confederation Centre Art Gallery (1981), the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (1980), the Southern Alberta Art Gallery (1979) and the Glenbow Museum (1977). Young's art imaginatively reconstructs experience as a kind of allegorical collage, in which realistically painted or drawn objects compete for the viewer's attention with images pilfered from art history. His paintings are nominally still lifes that depict living-room interiors, flights of stairs, scenes half glimpsed through urban windows, and fruit and flowers. Their ostensible realism is repeatedly disrupted by visual quotations from the work of other artists, and by jarring shifts in medium. Oil is juxtaposed with chalky gouache, watercolour, coloured pencil, and silvery graphite.

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Etching is an example of intaglio. Intaglio derives its name from the Italian intagliare, meaning to incise. Copper or zinc plates have a waxy ground applied to them, and an incising tool called a scribe is used to penetrate the ground. The plate is immersed in an acid bath, where the acid bites into the incised lines to emphasize them. When the plate is ready for inking, the ground is removed and the entire plate is covered in ink. The plate is then wiped clean on the surface and printed on damp paper, where the paper is forced into the etched lines and picks up the remaining ink, resulting in an image.

For more information on this work, or any of the prints from the AFK Editions, please contact:

Artists for Kids
604-903-3798
afkinfo@sd44.ca



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