



When I think of silent film actresses, I think of glamour, mystery, and passion. What impresses me most, however, about actresses of the silent film era, was their ability to portray the full range of human emotion primarily through facial expression. Dark smoldering eyes, expressive eyebrows, mobile mouths, showing you at once what emotions they were portraying — pain, anguish, flirtation or seduction, anger, joy, or even malevolence. I had been working with black and white monotypes and wanted to concentrate on face studies because the press I was using was limited in size. I found some photos of silent film actresses that were perfect for my purposes and continued to find more images, in books, on the Internet, etc.

These monotypes are a tribute to the divas, vamps, and flappers of the silent era.

A monotype is a print that is created by first rolling or painting ink onto a flat surface like a plexi-glass plate. Using a variety of implements, rags, pencils, cotton swabs, even fingers, the artist removes ink from certain areas and perhaps adds ink to others. After the image is complete, a sheet of paper is placed on the plate and put through a press. The image is then transferred to paper. This process can be repeated using the same paper to create a layered effect.

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SILENT STARS

MONOTYPES BY KIRSTEN HORNING

