

What is “Clayboard Etching?”

Also known as “scratchboard,” this is a unique medium that starts with a Masonite board with a white china clay coating over which is a layer of black india ink. I scratch the india ink with fine needle-like tools, fiberglass brushes, and Xacto® knives exposing the white clay underneath. Some pieces are left black and white while others are painted with special ink, gouache, or acrylics. I frequently re-scratch in between layers of paint or ink to achieve the desired effect. I then protect the surface by applying several coats of clear acrylic, eliminating the need for glass.

As you can see, the extraordinary detail and texture renders the image practically life-like.