

Fred SCHIMMEL – Works on CD ROM from 2002



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Explanations by Fred Schimmel to the CD on next page!

INTRODUCTION TO THE CD

This CD is a work in progress. It is not anywhere near what I want it to be, but then of course, it never will be. Firstly, it will never be complete because too many works were sold and never recorded, records and photos were lost and the time necessary for this mammoth undertaking is limited. Hopefully too, there will always be new work to add as long as I am around.

At the moment this is just in the beginning stages and the gaps are still very obvious because they are so large. I have attempted to get the latest work in first, because there would just be more of them available. Which should make sense. As every computer has its own settings and its own standards, there is a fair amount of leeway in the colour reproduction you see, on most computers though, it should give a fair idea of what the work looks like.

The photos and slides were scanned with a Max Powerlook III scanner into a Power Macintosh 7200/90. Colour correction and editing was done with Adobe Photoshop. Care was taken to be as faithful to the originals as possible, which is fine as long as the originals are available. The rest have been made as faithful as memory, photos and slides allow.

Because it is a hassle to go from the work to the catalogue in order to find out what size the original work is, there is a shortcut built into the numbering of the works. As most works were done on paper they have been split into three approximate sizes, conforming to three paper sizes. "M" added to the number means a medium size paper of 65 cm x 50 cm and a "L" means a larger size of 100 cm x 70 cm while a "S" means the smaller size of 46 x 35 cm. Work does not always conform to these strict size perimeters, and I have "rounded off" the sizing to the nearest size group. To make sure you can always look in the catalogue for the exact size. When there is a dot after the number it means the work is sold.

When the folios are opened in Photoshop the icons show as thumbnails which is useful but as not everybody has that program I have put in some contact sheets so if you open those first you'll get an easier overview of what is available. It is quicker than opening each work individually which really is a bit of a bore. If you really want to have a better look at one of the works you can always click on the number in the folio. When you look in the contact sheets you will find that some numbers have a red spot behind them. Like in a gallery, that means the work has been sold.

Due to the difficulty of checking my older, more haphazard records, I have not yet been able to group the sizes for the pre-1988 work. However, it is still possible to check those sizes which are available in the catalogue. The catalogue for those works (Early Catalogue) is in the beginning stages and, due to the paucity of my records it will take a while to get going. Everything available will be included, little as it may be now. There is much information to be sorted, so you could try for another CD in about a years time if you are interested.

Included is an article which was published in the "South African Journal of Art History" in November 1993, so look under Journal if you really want to know more. If you want to save yourself some time, look under CV to find an abbreviated list of Exhibitions etc. That again is not complete, but the one-man shows are fairly accurate.

It is only since 1988 that I have started a painting catalogue. Since then the numbering has been in sequence while before (Early Work) it all went by the year in which the work was made. Neither are complete, and it will take a while to get anywhere near a reasonable standard.

Most screen prints were made between 1970 and 1980. That was also the start of a better type of cataloguing, as keeping track of hundreds of prints needed more than just casually jotting down some vague information. The information on the screen prints is therefore as complete as it gets.

Between 1981 and 1988 I had a lot of fun making paper. I have always loved working on paper and I originally set out to make paper just the way I wanted it for printing purposes. It did not work out that way though. The paper that came out was far too individual and nice to use as a medium to print on, so it became more of a work in itself. It was fun though and the attending of overseas paper making conferences was another great experience. There is no catalogue for the handmade paper but as they are mostly one standard size (65x50 cm) and none are available for sale, that would not make much sense. The hand made paper works included are just a sample of the ± 500 works produced that way.

During 1999 I got hold of a great stack of PVC plates. This prompted me to try to revive an old interest in etching. I have always loved all kinds of print making and the idea of doing some etchings again had been with me for quite a while. But how can one etch a plastic plate? The only solution was to engrave them, which renders more direct results, and therefore suited me even better. Actually it works out somewhere between an engraving and a monoprint and as such, no two prints are exactly the same. Nearly all prints are printed with two plates which makes the result even more varied.

The 'engravings' do not have a catalogue as the size of the plates (24x20.5) is the same for most of the prints. All of them are printed on Fabriano paper; and the editions are not numbered as there is too great a variation between the prints from the same plates. The numbering of the works reproduced on this CD refers to the numbering of the plates. It is doubtful if any edition of the same set of plates will ever reach twenty, none of them has even reached ten yet, as there is more fun in making new plates than in making prints. But it is early days still and I don't have a clue how this will develop. So far I have made about 90 sets of plates and am looking forward to making many more.

So that is about it.

As with most works in progress, any suggestions, remarks and criticisms about this CD are welcome. I know that this attempt is far from complete but I do hope that there also are some things in it that give some people some pleasure some of the time.

Fred Schimmel

It seems necessary to put in a reminder that the works are copyright protected, that is automatic anyhow, but not everybody seems to know that.