

Shells II by Franz Regenfuss

Offset Lithograph - Main Subject: Educational



**Item Number**  
4497437516

**Retail Value**  
\$100

**ArtRev.com Price**  
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**Dimensions (As Shown)**  
8W x 11.75H Inches  
20.32W x 29.84H cm

**Medium**  
Offset Lithograph

**Edition**  
- Edition Size is Unknown

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**About Franz Regenfuss**

Regenfuss' famous illustrations of exotic seashells reflected and stimulated the great interest of 18th century Europeans in the arrival of elaborate specimens from increasingly distant locales.

His *Choix de Coquillages et de Crustaces* is the largest format work on shells ever produced. The 1758 publication was an immediate success that appealed equally to collectors of art and to 18th-century conchologists working to identify and classify types and species.

The Regenfuss drawings are highly detailed and were delicately hand-colored by his wife. The combination of exceptionally fine drawing, engraving and coloring produces a distinctly three-dimensional impression. Commissioned by the King of Denmark, more care was given to the production of these images than to any other shell illustrations in history -- with clearly magnificent results.

## Offset Lithograph

The offset lithography process works by first transferring an image photographically to thin metal, paper, or plastic printing plates. Unlike other forms of printing, the image on the printing plate is not recessed or raised. Rollers apply oil-based ink and water to the plates. Since oil and water don't mix, the oil-based ink won't adhere to the non-image areas. Only the inked image portion is then transferred to a rubber blanket (cylinder) that then transfers the image onto the paper as it passes between it and another cylinder beneath the paper.

The term offset refers to the fact that the image isn't printed directly to the paper from the plates, but is offset or transferred to another surface that then makes contact with the paper.

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