

[Untitled V](#) , (circa 2007) by [Avi Ben-Simhon](#)  
Original Linocut - Main Subject: Plants & Flowers



**Item Number**  
7845570997

**Retail Value**  
\$2,500

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**Dimensions (As Shown)**  
29W x 44H Inches  
73.66W x 111.76H cm

**Medium**  
Original Linocut

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About Avi Ben-Simhon

Avi Ben Simhon's works are unique in their bright and effervescent gripping colors and dynamic textures. His compelling, intricate compositions intrigue the eye of the viewer. Avi was influenced by the fauvist and cubist painters of the 19th century, particularly Picasso, and the surrealist painters, Dali and Magritte. The dramatic, powerful images and forceful colors are dominant in his oeuvre and express a joy of life.

His work is the culmination of artistic excellence and a background in graphic printing and is exciting, unique and has become a favorite among collectors for its beauty and mood.

The inspiration for my work comes from within me, he explained. I am not trying to copy nature - I am copying my imagination.

Ben-Simhon was born in Fezze, Morocco in 1947, but he spent his formative years in Israel. His family immigrated to the country in 1948 upon the establishment of the Israeli state. The artist grew up in the historic city of Jerusalem and also served in the Israeli army before joining a group of friends to establish Kibbutz Eyal.

Along with its religious significance in his life, Israel was also the location of Ben-Simhon's extensive art education. In 1986, he studied at the acclaimed Avni Art Institute, which was followed by three years of immersion into the world of contemporary art at the acclaimed Kallisher Institute. Ben-Simhon soon became fascinated by the Fauvist and Cubist painters of the 19th Century, and the influence of this style is readily apparent in his paintings. He says his work is marriage of beauty and complication, and he finds that his collectors adore the round lines, colorful images and the feeling of happiness they evoke.

Today, Avi Ben-Simhon has become a highly collectible painter whose works can be found in private and corporate collections around the world. His dramatic, brilliantly colored images have also been the subject of myriad images throughout Israel, France, Canada and the United States.

#### **His exhibitions include:**

1990 Goldeman Rockville Gallery, Washington D.C.

1992 Kallisher 5 Gallery, Tel Aviv

1994 Zionist Organization of America, Tel Aviv

2001 The Gallery of Kibbutz Naan

2002 Art Miami, Florida

2002 International Artexpo New York

2003 International Artexpo New York

2004 International Artexpo New York

## **Original Linocut**

Linocut is a printmaking technique, a variant of woodcut in which a sheet of linoleum (sometimes mounted on a wooden block) is used for the relief surface. A design is cut into the linoleum surface with a sharp knife, V-shaped chisel or gouge, with the raised (uncarved) areas representing a reversal (mirror image) of the parts to show printed. The cut areas can then be pulled from the backing. The linoleum sheet is inked with a roller (called a brayer), and then impressed onto paper or fabric. The actual printing can be done by hand or with a press.

As the material being carved has no particular direction to its grain and does not tend to split, it is easier to obtain certain artistic effects than with most woods, although the resultant prints lack the wood character of wood block printing. Linoleum is also much easier to cut than wood, which must be carved away, but the pressure of the printing process degrades the plate faster. It is also difficult to create larger works due to the material's fragility.

Although linoleum as a floor covering dates to the 1860s, the linocut was invented by the artists of Die Brücke in Germany between 1905-13. At first they described their prints as woodcuts, which sounded more respectable.

Color linocuts can be made by using a different block for each colour, as in woodcut. But, as Pablo Picasso demonstrated quite effectively, such prints can also be achieved using a single piece of linoleum in what is called the 'reductive' print method.

Essentially, after each successive colour is imprinted onto the paper, the artist then cleans the lino plate and goes back into the linoleum, cutting away what will not be imprinted for the subsequently applied color.

Due to ease of use, linocut is widely used in schools to introduce children to the art of printmaking; similarly, non-professional artists often use linocut rather than woodcut. But, as Picasso and Henri Matisse helped to establish, linoleum is also a respected medium used for printmaking by professional artists. The first large color linocuts made by an American artist were those of Walter Inglis Anderson, ca. 1943-1945, which were exhibited at the Brooklyn Museum in 1949.

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