

# MARTY ITTNER (MD)



*Torrid Zone III*, encaustic monotype, etched glass.  
13 x 10 inches

## *Torrid Zone III*

I bring a background of visual language and environmental activism to my work—by exploring improbable pairings of ephemeral images with prints that evoke the natural world. This overlay of humanity echoes the influence of humans on our planet.

*Torrid Zone III* was made using a hot box coated with a thin layer of encaustic colors. The heat melts the wax which becomes liquid like printing ink. Next, a hand-cut stencil made of newsprint is laid over top. Using a hinge to keep it in place, printing paper is carefully laid on top and burnished. The encaustic adheres to the paper through the stencil's cut-out shapes.

These monotypes never felt finished. A guy I knew had a laser cutter that could render any image, even on glass. I was interested in casting a shadow on the print, causing it to change with the light. The etched gas-masked guy hovers on glass an inch above the print, and a zoned world map appears on the back of the same glass. Sometimes the etching is more present, and in other lighting the cast shadows are more pronounced.

*Torrid Zone III* takes us above. Looking down, we see the scorching, the shifting, of what was once a balanced ecosystem, in the shadow of man. We have exploited the system in the service of our desires. Mankind has upset it, and now we must fix it.

“The most wondrous products of four billion years of life need help.”

— Richard Powers, *The Overstory*

Artist Statement  
Marty Ittner