

## “Simple Rules of Collecting”

Weekly Times Column

By Warren Joel

### Do I have a print or a water colour?

Over the next few weeks we'll discuss some of the intricacies of the collecting world and the things you need to know. One of the most confusing areas of collecting is trying to identify prints from originals, whether they are water colours or oils.

One of the most useful pieces of equipment that any collector should have is the magnifying glass or 'loop'. Ideally this should be the ten times magnification that will be powerful enough for most applications. The use of the loop will require some practice to be proficient enough to examine your works of art, or collectables.

The best place to start may be the photo on the front page of this paper. Take your magnifying glass and hold it approximately 3 cm or 1 inch away from the photo and bring your eye down to the loop. By finally moving your eye and the loop you should be able to see the fine dots that make up a printed image. This exact same technique can be applied to your water colour, even through the glass.

If when you look at your water colour you find the same dots, you have a print. If the work is an original you should be able to see the brush strokes that make up the piece of art.

One of the best local resources I find to help with the identification is your regional art gallery. They will not be able to give you an evaluation but they can identify an original from a print if you are in doubt.

Warren Joel

Warren is a third generation auctioneer and valuer specialising in Art, Antiques and Collectables, accredited by the Commonwealth in 2002 different areas of collectables.

[www.byjoel.com.au](http://www.byjoel.com.au)