Robert Blackburn (1920–2003) made a tremendous impact on printmaking in the United States. Over a career that spanned six decades, Blackburn’s generous spirit, avant-garde ideas, and technical expertise affirmed printmaking as a fine art, while boldly pushing the practice in new directions. An influential teacher, celebrated collaborator, and Master Printer, Blackburn embraced democratic ideals in the creative process and promoted access to art. In 1947, he founded a printmaking workshop as a welcoming and inclusive space where artists of all levels could learn and create together.

Robert Blackburn & Modern American Printmaking follows the trajectory of Blackburn’s career. The exhibition traces his artistic evolution in the context of the creative community with whom he engaged throughout his life.
This exhibition is presented in two locations: Gallery 214 in the Nelson-Atkins Building and Gallery L8 in the Bloch Building. Robert Blackburn’s early career is on display in Gallery 214, while his later career and legacy are shown in Gallery L8.

To experience the full exhibition, we invite you to visit both spaces.

Members are the ART & SOUL of the museum. Our members provide essential support. Join at the Info Desk, Bloch Lobby.