

***Toussaint I – IV and Mardi Gras* 2014-19 Silkscreen prints  
(edition 30 each print) 40 x 48 cm**

I made this set of four prints with Kip Gresham, a master printer based in Cambridge, in December of 2014. They were conceived as individual works that could be shown singly or together, in any combination.

They are titled *Toussaint I, II, III and IV*, after the musician Allen Toussaint, born in New Orleans in 1938. He wrote and produced many of the great songs I remember from the 1960s, when I had just started out as an art student. They still sound terrific to me. I was listening to one the other day called *Tiddle Winks*. Its imagery and feel and rhythm reminded me of the many studies I'd made in preparation for the silkscreens. It seemed too literal to use as a title, so I named the series of four after the composer, as homage. Kip said he knew all about Allen Toussaint, was himself a fan. It wasn't surprising to me, as we like the same music playing as we work. I think of our productions in print as collaborations.

In 2019 I made a new print in Cambridge with Kip and Alan Grabham. The forms echoed the Toussaint series, so when thinking of a title I said I might look up some more of his songs. Kip immediately found *Mardi Gras* on his iphone, played it, and it suited perfectly. Then we realised that the day, 5 March, was officially Mardi Gras Day. Later that evening I found the original recording of *Mardi Gras in New Orleans*, by Professor Longhair – brilliant.