

1994

Normal Editions Workshop Newsletter, 1994

School of Art

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NORMAL EDITIONS WORKSHOP

Richard Finch, Director - Printer

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Traveling Exhibition

The Sordoni Gallery of Wilkes University in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania hosted the traveling exhibition of prints published by Normal Editions Workshop in February of 1994. Nancy Kruger and Stanley Grand coordinated the exhibition at the Sordoni Gallery. The N.E.W. traveling exhibition has been presented at several venues over the past four years.

The next stop for the exhibition is at the Fred P. Giles Gallery of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky. The entire two-floor space of the facility has been reserved for the exhibition from February 6-28, 1995. The show will feature selected prints from the workshop's past eighteen years of activities. The planned schedule includes a gallery talk presented by Richard Finch at the time of the opening reception.

"Contemporary Prints" Exhibition

"Contemporary Prints" is a traveling exhibition of the prints co-published by Normal Editions Workshop and University Galleries during the past seven years. This exhibition has been partially funded by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council to help provide Illinois museums, other university galleries, and art centers with the opportunity to view the results of the seven years collaboration with nine contemporary artists.

In each limited edition of prints, we have worked with artists who have visited Illinois State University in conjunction with exhibitions of their art at University Galleries. This co-publishing effort has been pursued with the goals of providing an exchange of ideas and techniques among students, faculty and visiting artists, and to publish high quality limited editions.

The exhibition of thirteen images from nine artists represents the diversity in contemporary art and is recorded in a two-fold color brochure which reproduces all the prints shown and lists the participating museums and galleries. Wall signage with information about the individual artists and working methods will accompany the exhibition at each location.

At the present time, seven Illinois locations have been scheduled as follows: The Adler Cultural Center from May 25 to June 24, 1995; the Mitchell Museum from September 23 to October 29, 1995; Parkland College Art Gallery from November 8 to December 15, 1995; Lakeview Museum from February 23 to April 14, 1996; Bicentennial Art Center from June 1 to July 21, 1996; Southern Illinois University, Carbondale from August 20 to September 29, 1996 and the Illinois State Museum, Lockport Gallery (dates to be announced). Other venues are still being considered, with a one-way shipping charge as the only fee.

The main focus of the "Contemporary Prints" traveling exhibition is the dissemination of knowledge of contemporary prints to

art organizations and their audiences throughout the state of Illinois as an opportunity to further the co-publishing mission of Normal Editions Workshop and University Galleries to promote understanding of contemporary art. The funding from the Illinois Arts Council is most appreciated in the support of this endeavor.

Barry Blinderman, Director of University Galleries, curated the exhibition, secured the grant, and is overseeing the scheduling and management of this exhibition.

1994 Publications

A recent publication project was a set of four xerox transfer images for Ray George which were printed lithographically in a blue-black on a natural color oriental paper. The artist will complete the images utilizing a variety of intaglio techniques. Upon completion of a large contract printing project which is anticipated early next semester, the workshop will be redirecting its energies to publishing limited editions of lithographs.

Two projects which are currently in progress are images for Jane Dickson and Mark Forth. Both artists have collaborated with N.E.W. staff during visits to ISU earlier in 1994 at which time color proofs of the images were produced. In keeping with the philosophy and practices of Normal Editions Workshop, attention to and assistance in the collaborative and production aspects of the projects by interested faculty and students is encouraged and utilized.

Notice of 10th Annual Printmakers Exhibition and Sale

Illinois State University 10th Annual Printmakers' Exhibition and Sale featuring all original intaglio and lithographic prints by students and faculty of the Printmaking areas of the Art Department of ISU, Center for the Visual Arts in Room 123, Friday, December 9th from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Special purchase opportunity: Two special purchase opportunities of original, limited edition prints are being offered this year by Normal Editions Workshop. These works are discounted especially for a limited time and all proceeds will be used to support the graduate assistantship program in the Art Dept. at ISU.

The packages include:

OPTION 1

- a. Sidney Goodman, "Boy with Raised Arm"
- b. John Himmelfarb, "Proof Copy"
- c. one Midwestern Landscape Impression
(Select one image by George Atkinson, James Butler, Harold Gregor, or Keith Jacobshagen)

Discount Price: \$1,600.00

OPTION 2

- d. Chuck Forsman, "Hen"
- e. Joe Bova, "Ghost Cat"
- f. Tom Majeski, Monotype Landscape
(Select one unique impression)

Discount Price: \$ 600.00

Contract Project

The Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA) project nears completion. N.E.W. has been focusing on a huge contract printing project this entire year. Production began in earnest in January after the approval of all the Right to Print impressions by the six artists. Christine Anderson, Tanya Butler, Wayne Forte, Bruce Herman, Edward Knippers, and Duncan Simcoe each created three images utilizing a variety of intaglio techniques on copper plates while on the CIVA sponsored trip to Florence, Italy last summer. Wayne Forte and Edward Knippers each contributed an additional image which is included in the deluxe edition of the portfolio.

Eighteen of the images are each printed in editions of 20 regular and 30 deluxe, with the two additional images printed in editions of 30 only. All the impressions are printed on handmade paper, which is a special customized blend of cotton and abaca fibers developed in collaboration with the CIVA artists and Veda and Meda Rives through their studio, Mirror Image Press, 148 North Dey St., Virden, Illinois 62690. Mirror Image Press specializes in fine art printing and handmade papers. A custom watermark carries the initials CIVA in the lower corner of each sheet of paper. The paper for the regular edition is a warm white color, while the paper for the deluxe edition is a cream.

The magnitude of the project has called for more personnel. N.E.W. sponsored two extra graduate assistantships just for the printing of this project. Graduate students Ann Richard and Jeff Nachtigall enjoyed this unique opportunity to be hired as intaglio printers. At this time, sixteen of the editions have been printed, with the four remaining editions scheduled to be completed yet this semester. The printers for the editions are as follows:

RICHARD FINCH
Christine Anderson,
"Crosificione #1"

Duncan Simcoe,
"The Sense of Smell"
Tanya Butler,
"Samson and Delilah" and
"Ruth and Naomi"

JEFF NACHTIGALL
Christine Anderson,
"Crosificione #2" and
"Crosificione #3"
Bruce Herman,
"Sacred Head: the Crowning",
"Sacred Head II: The Mocking"
and "Christ in the House of
His Oppressors"
Wayne Forte,
"Crucifixion"

ANN RICHARD
Duncan Simcoe,
"To Live and Die for Joy"
Tanya Butler,
"Cloud of Witnesses"
Edward Knippers,
"Massacre of the Innocents" and
"The Sacrifice of Isaac"

ANN RICHARD AND JEFF NACHTIGALL
Duncan Simcoe,
"The Weight (Sacrifice of Isaac)"

VEDA RIVES
Wayne Forte,
"Cain and Abel" and "Sacrifice"
Edward Knippers,
"With His Stripes"
and "The Stoning of Stephen"

VEDA RIVES AND JEFF NACHTIGALL
Wayne Forte,
"Deposition"

Guest Artist

A special guest-artist lecture series was organized and sponsored by the printmaking areas this fall. Robert Malone, from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, presented a 2-day workshop on monotypes utilizing the intaglio studio on October 18 and 19, and a 1-day workshop on positive working photo plates in the lithography studio on October 20. Both workshops included presentations to printmaking and drawing

classes of Robert Malone's working methods and finished art work, question and answer sessions, and observation of the artist at work. All interested persons were invited to attend the all-day sessions on a time permitting basis. The format was well received, with many students, faculty and staff taking advantage of the open invitation.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the Photo Services Darkroom staff for the use of their arc-lamp in exposing the 30" x 40" positive working plates.

Monotype Workshop by Richard Finch

A unique opportunity is available in the form of a Summer Workshop on Monotypes by Richard Finch from June 13 through July 19, 1995. This four week workshop will focus on the exploration and use of monotype printmaking, with and without a press. Richard Finch has presented numerous workshops on several printmaking and drawing subjects around the country in recent years. The class may be taken for credit. Registration will be done with the ISU Summer Session. For more information on the workshop and/or registration, contact Betty Kinser in the Art Department, (309) 438-5627, or Richard Finch at Normal Editions Workshop, (309) 438-7530.

Projects for 1995

Several forthcoming projects have been tentatively scheduled. Hal Halone, an artist from Nebraska will be visiting the workshop to work on one or two limited edition lithographs. Dann Nardi, a local sculptor, will be developing an image for an edition to accompany the catalog of the exhibition of his art work at University Galleries next semester. Roger Winter, from Maine, who will be on campus several weeks as part of the Visiting Artist Seminar class, is interested in

pursuing a collagraph project. A proposed computer project with Chicago artist, Susan Senseman, would utilize a three-way collaboration with the workshop, the artist, and creative imagery generated with the help of a computer expert brought to ISU for a seminar organized by Pamela Blum.

Staff Promotions

This semester has brought promotions for two of the workshop staff. In August, Richard Finch, Director/Printer, received full professor status, subsequent to the required review of his accomplishments over the course of his entire career. The review board considered achievements in the areas of teaching, creative production, and service to the university.

Veda Rives, who has been the Assistant Director since 1992, received a promotion in October through the elevation of the assistant director position from temporary extra help status to a continuing Administrative/Professional contract. While the title remains the same, the new A/P position entails more duties and new responsibilities. These promotions reflect the growth of the workshop and its personnel. The total number of guest artists and completed editions has steadily increased as the workshop expands its activities.

Notices in publications

"Contemporary Impressions, The Journal of the American Print Alliance" Vol. 2, #2 Fall 1994 issue features an interview with artist John Himmelfarb. The interviewer was Susan Stewart, who is a partner and graphic designer of Stewart & Stewart, a printer and publisher since 1980. The article's focus is John Himmelfarb's current calligraphic drawing imagery, its sources, and influences as utilized in a recent group of print products in collaboration with Norman Stewart.

One full page of the four page interview discusses the relationship of these prints with the prints published recently by Normal Editions Workshop for John Himmelfarb. The artist is exploring the aesthetics of the written letter and similar documents as visual imagery rather than as literary works or communication of language. Two of the N.E.W. prints, "Proof Copy" and "Letter to Ray" were reproduced to accompany the article.

"Contemporary Impressions" is a journal of critical literature about prints, paperworks, and book arts. Subscription information is available from Dr. Carol Pulin, The American Print Alliance, 711 E Street NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Charitable Donation

One impression from the David Hodges' edition entitled, "A Farmer Fiddling with Fawns", was donated by University Galleries and Normal Editions Workshop to a fund raising effort sponsored by the Student Relief Fund.

Auction of Artwork to Benefit ISU Printmaking Area

A silent auction will be held in connection with the Printmakers Exhibition and Sale. The works by Robert Malone, James Butler, Richard Finch, Ray George, and Xiaowen Chen will be on display so that bids may be dropped in a box throughout the print sale day. The winning bid for each print will be revealed at 8:00 p.m. on December 9th.

All proceeds from these donated works will go to the benefit of the printmaking studio areas of Illinois State University.

N.E.W Awards and Scholarships

Normal Editions Workshop supports art students by recognition of achievements in print media through exhibition awards and a scholarship competition. The recipient of the 1994 award from the Student Annual Exhibition was a print by graduate student, Susan Donnelly. The recipient of the Honorable Mention award from the Works on Paper National Graduate Competition was Amy Moen from the University of Texas at Austin. Selection of the 1995-96 scholarship winner will take place in the spring semester and be announced at the awards ceremony of the Student Annual Exhibition.

Selected Exhibitions of Artwork by N.E.W. staff

The artwork of Richard Finch was featured at two group exhibitions organized in 1994 by Cissie Peltz of the Peltz Gallery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Also of note is the inclusion of work by Richard Finch in the South Bend Regional Museum of Art's Invitational Regional Exhibition which featured forty-five leading artists from the twelve state area served by the Mid America Print Council. A one person show of monotypes by Veda Rives was presented at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois during the fall semester. LLCC has scheduled a one person show of handmade paper and prints by Meda Rives in the near future.

Project Proposals Welcome

It is the policy of Normal Editions Workshop to encourage interested persons to submit project proposals for consideration as future projects. Also, contract printing rates are available for limited edition prints, as well as daily rates for monotype print sessions.

Normal Editions Workshop would like to thank Ian Butterfield for designing this edition of our newsletter.

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