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Normal Editions Workshop Newsletter

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1993

## Normal Editions Workshop Newsletter, 1993

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# *Normal Editions Workshop* **1993 Newsletter**

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## **Exhibitions**

Two exhibitions this fall featured prints published by Normal Editions Workshop.

The Edna Carlsten Art Gallery of the College of Fine Arts and Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point located in Stevens Point, Wisconsin hosted "Prints from Normal Editions Workshop at Illinois State University" from September 7th through October 10th. Robert Erickson, an ISU alumni, who chairs the faculty committee directing the activities at Carlsten Gallery, coordinated the exhibition and gallery talk presented by Richard Finch in conjunction with the opening reception. The exhibition featured selected prints from the workshop's activities over the past seventeen years.

University Galleries of Illinois State University presented "Collaborations" from September 21st through October 10th. This exhibition highlighted the thirteen editions upon which Normal Editions Workshop and University Galleries cooperated in co-publishing. Each of the artists selected for publication worked on the images at Normal Editions Workshop in conjunction with their visits to University Galleries at the time of exhibitions of their work. The artists represented were Mark Forth, Alex Grey, David Hodges, Mark Innerst, Donald Lipski, David Moreno, Dennis Oppenheim, Kiki Smith, and David Wojnarowicz.

The Sordoni Gallery of Wilkes University in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania has scheduled the traveling exhibition from January 23 through February 27, 1994.

## **1993 Publications**

During the sabbatical leave of Director-Printer Richard Finch, several projects were continued by the N.E.W. staff.

"Tabula Tabula Picta" is a large black and white lithograph, measuring 25" x 40" printed on gray BFK Rives paper utilizing John Himmelfarb's calligraphic characters. The edition of 24 was printed by Veda Rives with assistance from Nicholas DePeder, Richard Finch, Theresa Gall, Ryan Scott McCullar and Meda Rives.

Eleanor Himmelfarb's "Great Expectations" is a black and white lithograph printed on gray BFK Rives paper and mounted on white BFK Rives. Eleanor used a Xerox toner wash on an aluminum plate to execute this image in her abstracted painterly brush stroke style. Hand printing was accomplished by Meda Rives with the assistance of Nicholas DePeder, Richard Finch, Ryan Scott McCullar and Veda Rives.

A project in progress is a handmade paper edition, entitled "World Piece (Between the Lines)" with Dann Nardi. The hand-built piece measures 28" x 58" and utilizes cotton, abaca, maguey fibers and hand-coloring to carry out Nardi's world map theme. Construction is accomplished through collaboration by the artist with Meda Rives and Veda Rives.

A recent internal project is an edition utilizing a transfer from an intaglio zinc etching plate to a lithographic plate. The edition "Yawning Man" by Xiaowen Chen was used as the cover image for the Intaglio Manual compiled by Ray George. The lithographic printing of the edition was done by Richard Finch and Veda Rives with assistance from Meda Rives.

## **Recent Co-Published Projects**

In addition to regularly scheduled projects, University Galleries and Normal Editions Workshop have collaborated on the publishing of editions of prints by artists selected from the Galleries' exhibition schedule. Thirteen editions have been completed in the past six years. In the past year, Mark Forth, Alex Grey, and David Hodges have produced editions of prints through this co-publishing effort.

Mark Forth's "Temptation" is a two color print utilizing both lithographic and intaglio techniques. The printing of the edition of 20 was accomplished by Ray George, who supervised the intaglio process, and Veda Rives, who coordinated the lithographic process. Printing assistants for the project were Larry Bemm, Richard Finch, Theresa Gall, Ryan Scott McCullar, Meda Rives and Lloyd Wassenaar.

Alex Grey's "Study for Transfiguration" is a three color lithograph. The edition of 30 was printed by Meda Rives and Veda Rives with assistance from Nicholas DePeder, Richard Finch, and Ryan Scott McCullar.

David Hodges' "Study for a Farmer Fiddling with Fawns" is a hand colored black and white lithograph printed on tan BFK Rives paper. The edition of 50 was printed by Meda Rives with assistance from Nicholas DePeder, Richard Finch, Ryan Scott McCullar, and Veda Rives.

Currently in progress are second images for both Alex Grey and Mark Forth. Jane Dickson is scheduled to work on an image early next semester. 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 faculty and students is encouraged and utilized.

### **PCN Review**

The Print Collector's Newsletter, Volume XXIII No. 6 of January-February 1993 included a review of Dennis Oppenheim's "Occasion for Expansion", co-published by N.E.W. and University Galleries in the fall of 1992. Reviews are written at the discretion of the PCN staff after inspection of the actual prints.

### **Awards Sponsorship**

The annual scholarship of \$250.00, sponsored by Normal Editions Workshop for a student working in the print media, will be awarded again this year in conjunction with the Student Annual Exhibition at University Galleries. This marks the third year of sponsorship for this scholarship which is awarded on the basis of slide review with selection made by the Scholarship and Recruitment Committee. Past recipients include Lloyd Wassenaar in 1991 and Meda Rives in 1992.

Also this year, N.E.W. is sponsoring an Honorable Mention prize in the amount of \$100.00 for the National Graduate Student Juried Competition, "Works on Paper" 1994. This event is sponsored by the ISU Art Department and coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Graduate School at ISU.

### **N.E.W. Students & Alumni in the News**

Todd DeVriese, Veda Rives and Meda Rives have each had solo exhibitions recently. The exhibition by Todd DeVriese was at Chicago Street Gallery in Lincoln, Illinois during August, 1993. "Paper Works" by Veda Rives was at Layman Gallery of Lincoln College, Lincoln, Illinois October 22 - November 11, 1992. "Land-Shapes" by Meda Rives was at Layman Gallery September 23 - October 13, 1993.

Also of note, Lloyd Wassenaar had an artist book included in the exhibition "Artists Book Works: A Decade in Illinois", Illinois Art Gallery in Chicago from September 10 - October 29, 1993. Meda Rives' artist book "Sundown" was included in the Illinois State Fair Professional Art Exhibition in August of 1993. Meda Rives' "Autumn Sunset" was one of 25 pieces selected for the competitive exhibition of artworks on or of handmade paper which celebrated the opening of the American Museum of Papermaking in Atlanta, Georgia in the fall of 1993.

## ***Sabbatical Leave: Richard Finch, N.E.W. Director-Printer***

The stated purpose of the sabbatical was to enhance artistic productivity and scholarly enrichment. To that end, adequate periods of time were allowed for study and production of artworks that focused on figurative and still-life imagery. Subject matter, form, and meaning were examined in particular as various technical and aesthetic concerns regarding media and ideas were elucidated.

Accomplishments of the sabbatical leave and related activities included: increased knowledge about historically significant figurative and still-life artworks; a body of drawings, paintings, and prints that explored the potential iconographic, symbolic, metaphoric, and psychologic characteristics of imagery utilizing figurative and still-life subject matter; additions to public and private permanent collections with the acquisition of some of these new works; national and regional exhibitions of these works; proposals to external and internal agencies in support of additional research and artistic productivity; and an award from the Illinois Arts Council in recognition of artistic achievement.

The enhancement of artistic productivity and scholarly enrichment during the sabbatical period continues to benefit and encourage new ideas and directions in current artworks, teaching, and workshop activities. Personal assessment of this leave and external appraisal of the results support the inherent benefit of the sabbatical leave and its impact on scholarship and creativity.

### ***Expanded Facility***

The construction work has been completed in the lithography studio area. Vented storage cabinets for chemicals are now located in the enlarged vent room. N.E.W. has rearranged and added to its equipment, incorporating the expanded floor space to accommodate flat files and a new curating area. Work space for larger projects is much more accessible now thanks to wider aisles and more table and storage areas. Visiting artists have been able to work on images for limited edition prints in the expanded facility with more room for observation by interested students and faculty.

### ***Intaglio and Papermaking Projects***

In the past year Normal Editions Workshop has expanded the scope of its projects by branching out into printing media other than lithography. Papermaking and intaglio printing have become options for artists who visit N.E.W..

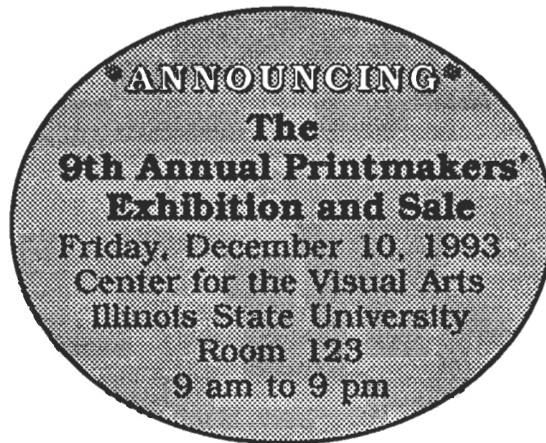
N.E.W. has undertaken the printing of an intaglio suite of twenty images by six artists. Edward Knippers, Bruce Herman, Christine Anderson, Wayne Forte, Duncan Simcoe, and Tanya Butler traveled to Florence, Italy for inspiration of the figurative images based on historical Judao-Christain persons. Working on copper plates measuring 24" x 18" and smaller, each artist produced several images. Forte also created the frontice piece image for the cover, which incorporates the title of the suite "Sacrifice". Each image will be printed in an edition of fifty. A unique handmade paper is being developed at Mirror Image Press by Meda and Veda Rives especially for this portfolio project. The warm white handmade paper will bear the custom watermark using the letters CIVA for the organization Christians in the Visual Arts.

Another handmade paper project is an edition of 20 hand-built cotton, abaca, and maguey fiber pieces. The artist, Dann Nardi, chose the paper media as a combination of his sculptural approach and the workshops' edition printing. The edition, "World Piece (Between the Lines)" continues Nardi's recent theme based on world map images and incorporates the addition of some hand coloring by the artist. Handmade paper construction was a collaboration with Veda and Meda Rives.

A special feature at the annual print sale this year will be impressions from the N.E.W. archives. During the recent reorganization of the storage area upon completion of the expansion project, several of the earlier editions were found to have enough impressions to once again offer them for sale.

These selected impressions will be offered at prices designed to make the works affordable to students and the general public.

All funds raised through sales made on December 10th during the print exhibition and sale will go toward equipment purchase for the printmaking classrooms at ISU.



The Director-Printer of Normal Editions Workshop wishes to thank the N.E.W. staff and assistants for their excellence and dedication during his sabbatical leave (spring semester, 1993). Several projects that were underway prior to and during the Director's leave were completed by the staff, and other publications were initiated. These accomplishments, noted in this newsletter, allowed Normal Editions Workshop to continue its service to professional artists throughout the United States and its commitment to Illinois State University.

**Normal Editions Workshop**

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