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Normal Editions Workshop Newsletter

Art

2021

Normal Editions Workshop Newsletter, 2020-21

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Recommended Citation

Wonsook Kim School of Art, "Normal Editions Workshop Newsletter, 2020-21" (2021). Normal Editions Workshop Newsletter. 27.

https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/new/27

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Normal Editions Workshop

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(first row after logo) Veda Rives Aukerman, Morgan Price, and Sarah Smelser, (second row) Jess Dowell, Erika Shiba, Peytin Fitzgerald, and Nicole Arnold

Normal Editions Sponsors Awards

Each year, Normal Editions sponsors a scholarship recognizing outstanding artistic ability and performance in printmaking. This competitive award is open to both graduate and undergraduate art students with an emphasis in printmaking and who will be attending Illinois State during the following academic year. **Tess Murphy**, a senior year undergraduate BFA major in Printmaking with a minor in Women and Gender Studies, is the 2020-21 recipient of the Normal Editions Workshop Scholarship.

Normal Editions also sponsored two awards highlighting achievement in printmaking for the 2020 Student Annual Exhibition in April. **Erika Shiba**, a second year MFA student, received the N.E.W. Best

Graduate Print award for her copper etching "Document 5." The N.E.W. Best Undergraduate Print award went to Michael Monroe for his letterpress and relief print "As the Universe, So the Soul." Erika Shiba also received the Karen Deske scholarship and the Jen Franklin Memorial award for her graphite drawing "Neurosphere." Jessica Peterson received the fourth annual Richard D. Finch Drawing and Printmaking award for her drawing "Hope." This award is sponsored by Kelsey and Jonathan DeGreef in honor of Richard Finch's 37 outstanding years of teaching drawing and printmaking. Jess Dowell, received the Elizabeth Stein Art Scholarhip. Antonia Diprima, received the ISU Glass award for her life-cast glass sculpture, "When did I see you last?" Congratulations to all!







Normal Editions

Collaborative Printing Since 1976

PHONE: 309-438-7530 FAX: 309-438-2215 WEB: normaleditions.illinoisstate.edu E-MAIL: normaleditionsworkshop@ilstu.edu

JANUARY 2020 - 2021

Normal Editions Workshop (N.E.W.) is a non-profit, professional, collaborative print research and publishing workshop founded in 1976 within the Wonsook Kim School of Art at Illinois State University. Welcome to our annual review of the year's events.

Who Works at Normal Editions?

In addition to the Director and printmaking faculty, printmaking graduate students work here as part of their assistantships. Other students take an independent study course to experience the inner workings of this professional printshop and expand what they learn in studio courses. The minimum prerequisite is one printmaking class.

Students participate in all aspects of our activities: preparing for artists' visits and projects, working with visiting artists in project development, proofing and editioning collaborative prints, writing grants, framing artwork, installing local exhibitions, organizing traveling exhibitions, documenting activities, and promotional materials.

Student Team members in 2020 and 2021 include Jess Dowell, Tess Murphy, Erika Shiba, Peytin Fitzgerald, and Nicole Arnold. Staff and faculty include Veda Rives Aukerman, Morgan Price, and Sarah Smelser.

Interested parties may contact us at normaleditionsworkshop@ilstu.edu.

COVID19 Sends Work Online

In mid-March our typical work patterns ended in response to the COVID19 global pandemic. All curriculum was transitioned to online delivery after an extended spring break to prepare for the radical change. Edition printing at the lithography press cannot be accomplished while maintaining proper social distancing. Thus two editions for Mark Ritchie and three for Bethany Collins are on hold until on-site teamwork is allowed. While there is plenty of work to accomplish remotely,we all eagerly look forward to printing lithos again in the future.

Recent Publications

A 2020 completed edition is a color lithograph by Nazafarin Lotfi which was printed early in the year with curating and edition signing accomplished in the summer. Nazafarin Lotfi, an artist and educator living and working between Tucson, Arizona and Chicago, Illinois, collaborated with Normal Editions as part of the ISU Visiting Artist Program from September 2 - October 2, 2019. Her interest in exploring opposition, tension, and harmony thru spatial arrangements to create places for possibility and growth resulted in a three-color lithograph entitled *Fold* using drawn elements in close color combinations. Three layers of ink include a warm gray, medium blue, and dark blue on BFK Rives white paper. Co-printers Veda Rives Aukerman and Morgan Price lead this project. The image was accomplished using hand drawing on three Artex Mylars and photographic techniques on positive working photo lithography plates. Lotfi's interdisciplinary practice includes drawings, sculpture, and performance.



Veda Rives Aukerman, Bethany Collins, Peytin Fitzgerald, and Erika Shiba stand with two signed "Right to Print" impressions during the collaboration in February

Number 29



Fold by Nazafarin Lotfi three-color lithograph, 19" x 14"

New Woodcut Portfolio Project with PGOBA initiated

Members of the Peoria Guild of Black Artists (PGOBA) have embarked on a collaborative project to create woodcuts printed by Normal Editions Team members. This new project begun in the fall semester has the goal of being collaborative while observing Covid19 restrictions for social distancing. Woodcut has the advantage of being more easily mobile, less equipment intensive, more intuitive for artists, and less complicated for printing. Eleven participating artists from Peoria include Kevin Bradford, Alexa Carey, Domonick Holloway, Kameron Hoover, Chantell Marlow, Alexander Martin, Erik Minnis, Morgan Mullen, Hannah Offutt, Brenda Pagan, and Quinton Thomas. Test blocks have been proofed and we look forward to seeing the edition blocks early in 2021 followed by edition printing soon after. For more information about the artists and the PGOBA organization, see their website: peoriagoba.com.



Bethany Collins and Morgan Price inspecting drawings on mylar over the light table while preparing to expose photo-lithographic plates

Projects in Progress 2020-21

Normal Editions is currently working on several collaborative projects with artists Bethany Collins, Jaimie Warren, and Mark E. Ritchie.

Bethany Collins was a visiting artist in residence February 3 - 7 collaborating with students, staff, and faculty to produce a limited edition print. An artist from Chicago, Collins works in a variety of media including drawing, painting, prints, sculptures, and artist's books where she incorporates fractured or illegible phrases, either punishingly erased or arduously rendered. She has explored personal, bureaucratic, and lyrical language. As Holland Cotter recently wrote in The New York Times, "Language itself, viewed as intrinsically racialized, is Bethany Collins' primary material." The artist elaborates, "I adore language because of its potential capacity, but if language is biased and not representative of us, it's bound to fail."

Collins' work was recently

featured in a solo exhibition at University Galleries of Illinois State University titled *Bethany Collins: A Pattern or Practice*.

Bethany Collins' February visit to ISU was sponsored in part by Normal Editions, University Galleries, and the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

The collaboration resulted in not one, but three impressions signed "Right to Print" for editions of large two-color lithographs entitled "and love all hearts entwine (God Bless Our Sunday School)", "and love all hearts entwine (God Bless Our Sunday School)" II, and "all hearts beneath the sun (Let War's Tempests Cease)".

Jaimie Warren, a multidisciplinary artist living and working in Brooklyn, New York is the Co-Director of a community arts project and fake public access TV show "Whoop Dee Doo" through which she collaborates with art programs for youth and local groups. Warren collaborated with Normal Editions as part of the ISU Visiting Artist Program in 2019. Her interest in performance and popular culture lead to a three-color lithograph featuring icons from her youth in the form of cards. The two-sided print entitled Tarot Deck #1, "The Dream Master" also includes metal leaf on the halos of the figures. Curating of this edition is currently nearing completion. A unique aspect of this work is the cutting of some of the impressions into individual cards which will be presented as a usable set of cards in performance work by the artist and as desired by patrons.

The collaborative print project with Mark E. Ritchie, Professor, University of Wyoming, Department of Art educator and artist, includes two four-color lithographs. These editions are next on the production printing docket at Normal Editions and we look forward to the opportunity to return to such activities after the restrictions from Covid19 are lifted. Ritchie's untitled prints explore individuality and relationships while featuring his gestural drawing methods using the subject of horses and birds. Ritchie lives and works in Laramie, Wyoming. An award from the Alice and Fannie Fell Trust of the Illinois State Foundation partially supported his visit to Illinois State.

Plans for 2021

Spring semester 2021 continues distance learning while plans for the fall semester at this point assume a return to on-site work and edition printing. Appointments will still be required for visits to CVA 129A. Plans for acknowledging the 45th anniversary of the founding of Normal Editions are under consideration at this time. Flexibility and openness to unexpected opportunities are important qualities during the ongoing response to the pandemic.

Instagram: @normaledtions isu

Our social media includes Instagram. Follow to stay up to date on recent collaborations with artists and see images from our archives. Some content is exclusive to Instagram while some can be seen on "Printmaking"



"and love all hearts entwine (God Bless Our Sunday School)"

Bethany Collins

two-color lithograph, 22 1/2" x 30 1/2"



"and love all hearts entwine (God Bless Our Sunday School)" II

Bethany Collins
two-color lithograph, 22 1/2" x 30 1/2"





two untitled works by Mark Ritchie four-color lithographs, 17" x 26" (left) and 15.5" x 30" (right)

at Illinois State University" Facebook page. Many thanks to Erika Shiba for maintaining the Instagram site this year!

Illinois Arts Council Support

Normal Editions takes this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) for its generous support. Normal Editions received \$6,100 in fiscal year 2020 for general operating support and \$5,200 for fiscal year 2021. We are very grateful; this funding enhances our ability to provide programs which attract public interest in the visual arts, supports our mission to make high-quality work with visiting artists, and gives students the opportunity to work in a professional printshop.

Personnel News

Normal Editions sends hearty congratulations to **Halie Hugenberg** who graduated in May 2020 with a BS in Art Education and a BFA concentrating in drawing and printmaking. Halie participated in Normal Editions three semesters during her academic program at Illinois State.

Normal Editions welcomes back third year printmaking graduate student, **Erika Shiba** and two second-year printmaking graduate assistants, **Peytin Fitzgerald** and **Nicole Arnold**, pursuing M.F.A. degrees in Printmaking.

Erika Shiba had two works selected for IPCNY's (International Print Center of New York) 2020 Summer New prints show "Give Me Space" in June. She also gave a virtual artist talk for this show. Erika's current graduate assistantship duties include Normal Editions and 2D Fundamentals.

Nicole Arnold's previous work experience as an assistant at Evil Prints working with Tom Huck in St. Louis, Missouri plus her own practice of printing woodcuts at home combined to create a great opportunity for her to be our resident expert in work-from-home printing woodcuts outside the studio. Nicci created a couple of videos and check-list tips for the artists of PGOBA and Normal Editions Team regarding cutting woodcut blocks and printing

with limited equipment. Her graduate assistantship duties this semester include Normal Editions, Intermediate Drawing, lab hours in the intaglio studio, and publishing a weekly printmaking newsletter for the current print students.

Peytin Fitzgerald was selected in the Fall of 2020 by a juried process to speak at MAPC (Mid-America Print Council) biennial conference which was an online event this year. Peytin presented a five-minute artist's talk during the *Student Lightning Talk* session. This semester her graduate assistantship duties included Normal Editions, Intaglio Lab hours, teaching assistant in Special Project Printmaking: Monotype, and Lithography Lab hours.

Normal Editions welcomed two undergraduate students to the Team in 2020. **Jess Dowell** is an undergraduate team member in both the spring and fall semesters. Spring 2021 she is also a Graphic Design Intern helping Normal Editions with all manner of promotional items and communication methods. Dowell is a BFA and Graphic Design



Bethany Collins (seated) welcomes students to observe the collaborative project in progress during her visit to Normal Editions Workshop, February 2020



This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



Normal Editions Workshop Newsletter

Published irregularly by Normal Editions Workshop Campus Box 5620, School of Art Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790-5620

Photo credits: Morgan Price, Sarah Smelser, Erika Shiba, Peytin Fitzgerald, Nicole Arnold, Tess Murphy, Jess Dowell, Meda Rives Smith, and Veda Rives Aukerman



Normal Editions Team Spring 2020 (top row) Jess Dowell, Nicole Arnold, Erika Shiba, Tess Murphy (second row) Peytin Fitzgerald, Morgan Price, Sarah Smelser, and Veda Rives Aukerman

major with a minor in Art History. Her studio focus is painting and printmaking. Dowell previously attended Spoon River College where she was a scenic artist and set painter for the SRC theater productions. At Illinois State University, Dowell was co-organizer for *Printmaker Interrupted*. In Spring of 2020, Dowell was also the lead organizer for the BFA show *Open Discussions* and a collaborative show *The Back Room*. She is a recipient of the Irving Tick award in the 2020 Student Annual and her anticipated graduation is in Spring of 2022.

Tess Murphy, Independent Study undergraduate student at Normal Editions in the spring semester 2020, is a BFA major in Printmaking with a minor in Women and Gender Studies (anticipated graduation 2021). She

is a Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts Council member. Awards include Normal Editions Best Undergraduate Print award and the Jen Franklin Memorial Award from the 2019 Student Annual exhibition. Tess was coorganizer for Normal Edition's online exhibition *Printmaker Interrupted*.

Professor **Sarah Smelser** continues her role as Associate
Director of the Wonsook Kim School of Art. Solo exhibitions in 2020 include *Skopeloakland*, Todd Art Gallery, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN and EXIT Gallery, Montana State University, Boseman, MT with an upcoming one-person show at Folsom Gallery, LUX Center for the Arts, Lincoln, NE. Other exhibitions include the two-person show, *A Brief Rhythm: Erin Furimsky and Sarah*



Nicci Arnold, Bethany Collins, and Lisa Lofgren observe the printing of the first plate for Bethany's project. Peytin Fitzgerald is the sponger for printer Morgan Price.



Peytin Fitzgerald and Erika Shiba with Veda Rives Aukerman working with masks and social distancing, September 2020

Smelser, University Art Gallery, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL and a group show *The Pandemic Faire*, online exhibition curated by Ted Kincaid, Glasstire.com

Morgan Price spent much of 2020 working from his home/studio spaces. He exhibited work in the Two Rivers Print Biennial in Carbondale, IL, the Illinois State University Faculty Biennial in Normal, IL, and the Mid America Print Council Juried Exhibition in Kent, Ohio. He organized a print exchange portfolio entitled What's So Funny?" for the 2020 Mid America Print Council conference, and these prints are currently on display in the first floor hallway of the Center for Visual Arts building. In fall of 2020 Morgan received the Gwen and Ted Crowley grant to support his work to create a bicycle powered printmaking gallery and press. When weather and global health are more conducive, he looks forward to the public launch of this mobile interactive printmaking adventure!

Interim Director and Master Printer **Veda Rives Aukerman** continues directing Normal Editions, marking her seventh year in the position in fall 2020. She also maintains an active exhibition schedule of collaborative works and large-scale installations with twin sister,



Peytin Fitzgerald (right) mixing ink with visiting artist Bethany Collins.

Meda Rives Smith. Exhibitions include the Illinois State University Faculty Biennial, Printmaker, Interrupted, and Sacred & Liturgical Art Exhibit at the Springfield Art Association, Springfield, IL. Magnolia BookEnviron is currently installed at Constellation Studios in the exhibition Paper Fiber: Shaped & Formed in Lincoln, NE as part of the city's FiberFest featuring contemporary fiber and textile artists. The show continues through February 27, 2021. Veda is active in the College Book Arts Association (CBAA) creating an edition in collaboration with Meda featuring handmade paper (tea dyed abaca fiber) with watermark imagery and stratography print methods for CBAA's Midwest Exchange Portfolio.

Keep in Touch

As our network continues to grow, we remain proud of the artistic, professional, and personal accomplishments of our alumni. Please send personal and professional updates to normaleditionsworkshop@ilstu.edu. Additionally, thanks to everybody who has liked Printmaking at ISU on Facebook! We continue to keep our website and Facebook page updated with current events, media, and opportunities from the printmaking community, including news from Normal Editions. https:// www.facebook.com/ISUPrintmaking



2020 branding refresh by Amanda Smith

Redesigned Website and **Branding Refresh for 2020**

Our newly redesigned website launched in late January 2020 after nearly a year of focused work. Many thanks to Amanda Smith from WEB and Interactive Communications for her expertise and leadership during this process. The website has great content in an elegant presentation. Images are presented via Flickr albums for a more versatile viewing experience. The branding refresh was also revealed during the website launch. The logo is now on the banner of this newsletter. It honors the chop (blind emboss) still used to designate the authorization of each impression since the founding of the workshop in 1976 while modernizing and streamlining the symbolic shape for the twenty-first century. Naming conventions have also been considered. For promotional purposes, a short name of "Normal Editions" is now preferred. Normal Editions Workshop remains the official legal name of this unit.

The acronym "N.E.W." is now deemphasized in promotional materials vet lingers as an internal and historic reference. The goal of this choice of naming conventions is for "Normal Editions" to more accurately describe the activities of this unit as a collaborative printmaking workshop publishing limited edition fine art prints. The website address remains the same, so check out the new look at https://normaleditions.illinoisstate.edu/

Open Invitation

Normal Editions has an ongoing commitment to the production of limited edition prints in collaboration with visiting artists—including many who have not worked previously with any printmaking media—and the distribution of these images to promote visual dialogue among a variety of audiences. The opportunities for these artists to explore (with the help of Workshop staff) the challenging, expressive, and creative potentials of printmaking have allowed the artists the freedom to concentrate on their visual imagery while learning about the expressive potentials of printmaking. The collaborative process always yields many insights for the artists, staff involved in the projects, and observers. Proposals for projects are welcome and reviewed periodically.

Future Renovation of CVA

Early planning is underway for temporary swing space equipment needs during the anticipated future displacement while the first floor renovation of the CVA building takes place. Actual timelines have yet to be finalized for the \$61.9M Fine Arts Rehabilitation Project. Planning is moving forward at full speed and we are eager to learn more about the details as they become available.

Meanwhile, Normal Editions prints continue to be displayed in Wonsook Kim School of Art and Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts offices, conference room, and various offices and display areas on campus.



""all hearts beneath the sun (Let War's Tempests Cease)" **Bethany Collins** two-color lithograph, 22 1/2" x 30 1/2"

Printmaker, Interrupted

Over 125 works in this online exhibition feature art highlighting the ways print-making students and faculty from many locations continue to make work in the spirit of printmaking even without typical studio resources due to COVID19.

Immediately upon resuming classes remotely at the onset of the global pandemic response, undergraduate students Tess Murphy and Jess Dowell used their work-from-home independent studies at Normal Editions to organize an online exhibition entitled *Printmaker, Interrupted*. Normal Editions is hosting the show to encourage creative problem solving to generate art speaking to printmaking in some fashion.

While the global response to COVID19 caused colleges and universities to move all courses to online and alternative formats to accommodate social distancing rules, many art students are displaced from their usual classroom studios. Equipment-dependent art media, such as printmaking with its presses, matrixmaking gear, and work spaces, adjusted the remaining projects of the semester to utilize materials the "stay-at-home" students have available in their individual situations rather than the on-campus studios.

These Normal Editions students are reached out to their peers in similar situations to highlight the creative work still being produced by students and faculty alike despite separation from expected studio facilities. *Printmaker, Interrupted* is intended to bring community awareness of this art to a wider audience via digital presentation in the online exhibition. Plans for the exhibition also include arranging the images into a printable digital PDF-zine to be made available in the future.

This exhibition was open to all current college and university students and faculty who are disconnected from their usual printmaking studios yet still producing work "at home." The focus of the exhibition is the creative results being produced in the spirit of printmaking while using alternative materials and methods for visual creative expression. Therefore, all media are welcome in the exhibition which includes digital images of the works submitted.

Many students and several faculty members from over 50 schools responded to the call for entries which was open for just two weeks, April 13 – 27, 2020. In total, 126 entries are included in the online exhibition. The works come from 27 states and three countries outside the USA showing diverse and creative examples of art produced from home

despite limitations while being *Printmakers, Interrupted*. Some of works directly address COVID19, while others explore related issues such as interpersonal relationships, isolation, and communication methods. Some artists were able to adapt traditional printmaking techniques in limited fashion in their home settings while others discovered alternative uses, methods, and techniques to convey their messages.

Many artists included short descriptions of their alternative methods and challenges overcome in the creative process. As a group, the works span the range of human emotions, carrying viewers through a journey of serious topics, playful presentations, somber images, joyful visuals with artworks which are surprising, comforting, confusing, somewhat disturbing, uniquely delightful, and ultimately uniting in their mutual expression of determination to continue creating work as an artist irregardless of limitations imposed by the global pandemic response. The exhibition is still available online at https://normaleditions.illinoisstate. edu/exhibitions/printmaker-interrupted/

Going Virtual for the Annual Printmakers' Exhibition & Sale

The 36th Annual Printmakers' Exhibition and Sale is an online experience for viewing and purchasing works created by Illinois State University printmaking students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Even the submission of works for the event was an online process for the first time this year.

Patrons will enjoy added features in the online environment with short biographies of the participating artists and some videos highlighting printmaking techniques.

Purchases are accomplished online with options for free curbside pick-up or local delivery by appointment or shipping via UPS for an additional fee.

The online event launched November 17, 2020 and runs thru January 22, 2021. Purchases can be made at anytime via the TouchNet uStore. Appointments for curbside pickup or local delivery will be arranged by email and follow business hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m Monday-Friday). University closure between semesters is a period of time when appointments are not possible. (December 24, 2020 - January 1 and January 18, 2021)

Proceeds from the sale support the Printmaking Speaker Fund and Printmaking Student Travel Fund to help support students participating in professional printmaking conferences. This online event is free and open to the public.



Watershed III by Meda Rives Smith and Veda Rives Aukerman stratography 11.5" x 8.5" image size



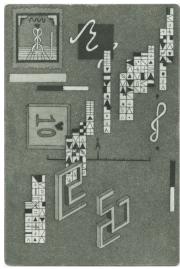
Construction by Sarah Smelser print collage with thread 6.5" x 7" image size



the man in black (in red) by Morgan Price monotype, collage, thread, hand coloring 7.25" x 9.75" image size



Sunset by Teri Croft four- color monotype 5.5" x 10" image size



Love Letter Home 2 by Erika Shiba copper etching 4" x 6" image size



Calami-tea by Nicole Arnolo two-color woodcut 13" x 10" image size



In the Jungle by Peytin Fitzgerald drypoint
6" x 6" image size



Under the Sea by Evelyn Whitfield monotype and collage 9.5" x 7.5" image size



untitled by Molly Markow etching 8.5" x 5.5" image size



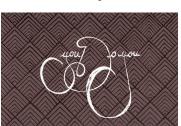
The Courtship (1) by Jess Dowell lithograph
9" x 6" image size



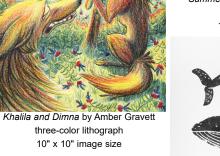
untitled by Ryan Paluczak collagraph 8" x 7" image size



Summer Night by Rebecca Hodel monotype 10" x 8" image size



This makes me uncomfortable by Amanda Smith one color woodcut with India ink 4" x 6" image size



Widening Circles by Lisa Lofgren relief, etching, and watercolor 10" x 8.25" image size



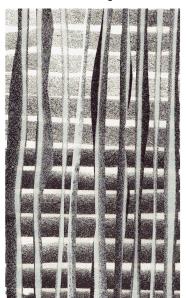
Meet Cute by Megan Hinds linoleum cut 5" x 6" image size



untitled by Micah Zavacky silk screen 10" x 13" image size



Reception by L J Douglas trace monotype, chine colle 8.125" x 10" image size



vertical III by Felicia Cannon lithography and collage 5" x 3" image size