

Normal Editions Workshop

Veda Rives, Interim Director

Sarah Smelser, Professor of Art

Morgan Price, Assistant Professor of Art

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Illinois State University

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NEW Team-Fall 2015: Dylan Welch, Micah Zavacky, Veda Rives, Felicia Cannon, and Morgan Price wield some of their favorite printmaking tools and supplies at Normal Editions Workshop

NEW Sponsors Awards

Bachelor of Fine Arts student **Megan Hinds** was awarded the 2015 Normal Editions Workshop Scholarship in April. The NEW Scholarship recognizes outstanding artistic ability and performance in printmaking. This competitive award is open to both graduate and undergraduate art students who have an emphasis in printmaking and will be attending Illinois State during the following academic year. Additionally, NEW sponsors two printmaking awards for the annual student juried show. **Samantha Buchanan** received the NEW Best Graduate Print award for her "print-stallation" piece entitled *These are Falling*.

Sam's piece utilized non-traditional print materials such as tape, clips, and rice. The NEW Best Undergraduate Print Award went to **Megan Hinds** for her multi-media piece titled *Monarch Migration*.

In addition, the lithograph *Stripped by Amber Gravett* won the School of Art's Irving S. Tick Printmaking Award. Congratulations to all!

MFA Degree Applications

Applications for a Master of Fine Arts Degree in printmaking for Fall 2016 are being accepted. We anticipate one graduate assistantship position in printmaking, beginning in the Fall of 2016. For more information about printmaking at Illinois

State University please contact via email Morgan Price (Lithography) mprice@ilstu.edu or Sarah Smelser (Intaglio) ssmelse@ilstu.edu. Completed applications should be received by February 1, 2016 for full consideration. Other graduate disciplines in the School of Art (SoA) include painting/drawing, photography, glass, ceramics, video, and sculpture/expanded media. Other graduate degrees offered in the SoA include MS in Art Education and MA in Visual Culture. Questions may be directed to gradart@ilstu.edu or the School of Art (309-438-5621). Information and applications are available online: <http://finearts.illinoisstate.edu/art/graduate/mfa/>

The 31st Annual

PRINTMAKERS' EXHIBITION AND SALE

Illinois State University Center for the Visual Arts

CVA Room 123, Friday, December 4th, 2015 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

See related article inside for more details on this unique opportunity.



NORMAL EDITIONS WORKSHOP

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Morgan Price, Assistant Professor and Sarah Smelser, Professor of Art

SCHOOL OF ART COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Recent Publications

In Spring 2015, we completed two editions; one with Olivia Valentine and one with Academy Records (Stephen Lacy). Both of these artists were participants in the School of Art's Visiting Artist Seminar program. The collaboration with Olivia Valentine was initiated by NEW graduate assistant Chris Hagen in November of 2014. The edition printing occurred in the spring semester. Valentine, who recently returned from a Fulbright year in Turkey, creates architectural scale textile based installations exhibited both nationally and internationally. In collaboration with NEW staff, a positive working photo-lithographic plate was exposed directly like a photograph using a piece of fabric Valentine had altered by removing selected threads. The result is a one-color lithograph, *Goose Island*, which measures 15" x 21 1/2" printed in an edition of 20 with gray ink on white BFK Rives paper by Veda Rives with assistance from Chris Hagen, Cara Kerchner, Sam Buchanan, Sarah Smelser, Morgan Price, Dylan Welch, Micah Zavacky and Meda Rives.

The collaboration with Stephen Lacy began in March with the edition printing concluding in May. Lacy, who creates under the name Academy Records, recently received a grant from the Foundation for Contemporary Art in New York. Lacy's proj-



Veda Rives, Olivia Valentine, and Chris Hagen display a color trial proof for the print *Goose Island*

ect grew into a four-color lithograph which used hand drawn, cut Rubylith shapes, and dark-room techniques to execute the images to be printed. The texture and illusion of graphite rubbed into gesso in selected areas was both challenging and successfully achieved. *Skip Softly My Moon Beams* is printed in an edition of 30 by Veda Rives with assistance from Samantha Buchanan, Christopher Hagen, Cara Kerchner, Morgan Price, Sarah Smelser, Dylan Welch, and Micah Zavacky.



Veda Rives and Morgan Price pull an impression from the final color run during the editioning of *Skip Softly My Moonbeams* by Academy Records (Stephen Lacy)

40th Anniversary Preparations

In 2016, NEW turns 40! To celebrate, we are planning a host of exciting shows and events. Highlighted works from NEW's archive will be on display at the McLean County Arts Center gallery (September 9-October 29th). There will be an International print show at University Galleries juried by well-known art historian and critic Susan Tallman (September 20th-October 16th), an ISU print alumni show at the Jan Brandt Gallery, and a current student show at Cometogetherspace. Join us as we celebrate our community and look forward to many more decades of printmaking! An open call for submissions to the juried show will be forthcoming in the spring and available online at normaleditions.illinoisstate.edu

A Sage Fund award has been secured to support the participation of juror Susan Tallman, her public lecture presented at University Galleries during the show, and a catalog documenting the international juried exhibition.

New Projects in Progress

The Figurative Portfolio includes works by four artists who draw from the human figure as subject matter. We were excited to bring New York painter **Lorraine Shemesh** to campus, thanks to support from a Fell Trust award, to collaborate on the final piece for the portfolio and give a public

talk at University Galleries. Shemesh's work has been shown extensively in the US and internationally. Flight delays from bad weather in February forced an abbreviated schedule, but Lorraine and the NEW team collaborated tirelessly over four days to create *Tethered*, a two-color lithograph. Shemesh generously hosted Chris, Dylan, Micah and Sam for a visit to her home-studio in New York when they were in NYC for the ISU graduate student exhibition, *901 Miles from Normal* at Front Room Gallery in Brooklyn the following week. Edition printing was accomplished in November.

This fall, we started a new project with School of Art visiting artist Laura Splan, whose work examines the material manifestations of our cultural ambivalence toward the human body. Among other projects and accolades, she has made commissioned work for the Center for Disease Control and received a Jerome Foundation grant for research in Europe.



Lorraine Shemesh working from her preliminary resources and proofs of plates



A moment together at SGCI: Veda Rives, Micah Zavacky, Megan Hinds, Dylan Welch, Morgan Price, and Sarah Smelser with the Knoxville Sphere

2015 Southern Graphics Council International Conference, *Sphere*

The annual international conference of printmakers, Southern Graphics Council International (SGCI) 2015, *Sphere*, was held in Knoxville, Tennessee in March. NEW participated with a successful publisher's table during the vendor fair event where we promoted our program, books, and print publications. Recruiting prospective graduate students and general awareness of the School of Art programs at Illinois State are other vital components of NEW's publisher table event. A solid ISU presence at SGCI consisted of NEW Interim Director Veda Rives, Professors Sarah Smelser and Morgan Price, MFA students Dylan Welch and Micah Zavacky, BFA student Megan Hinds, and alumna / NEW consultant Meda Rives. It was a very busy time trying to take advantage of the many offerings, including participating in the exchange portfolio, the open portfolio, and attending many panels and lectures. We were delighted to catch up with several alumni including Nick Satinover, Brandon Gunn, Erik Waterkotte, Mary-Jane Parker, and Marilee Salvador. Highlights include Nick Satinover's presentation, dinner at the Tomato Head restaurant, the view from the top of the sphere, and being happily exhausted by the excitement of meeting print people from around the world! Over 1600 print enthusiasts were in attendance



Veda, Tony, and Morgan pose with the generously donated Griffin etching press



Megan Hinds and Micah Zavacky share their work with conference attendees during one of the Open Portfolio event sessions at SGCI

from 49 states and 12 countries outside the USA. Fund-raising events for the Print Student Travel Fund, notably the Printmakers Exhibition and Sale and bake sales featuring knitwear by Sarah Smelser and Morgan Price, made the trip possible for the students. Thanks to all those who supported these efforts!

Two Visiting Artists in Printmaking

Thanks to the Printmaking Speaker Fund, we were able to bring Eleanor Jensen ('09) and Michael Barnes to campus in spring, 2015. Jensen splits her time between Alaska and teaching printmaking and drawing at Carleton College in Northfield, MN. Barnes is a professor of art in printmaking at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. Each artist gave presentations at University Galleries about their research, current work, and career highlights. Other activities included discussions with print classes and opportunities for individual critiques with students.

Exciting Acquisition

NEW is now the proud recipient of a Griffin etching press. Tom Stover of Colorado generously donated the press to Illinois State. Mr. Stover received his BFA from Colorado State University, MFA from University of Arizona, and JD from University of Colorado. After graduating from Arizona, Mr. Stover bought the Griffin press and set up a workshop in Colorado Springs, CO where he did contract printing



Michael Barnes, Visiting Artist, shares his work and process with lithography students



Morgan and Veda talk with conference attendees at NEW's publisher table during the vendor fair at SGCI

and rented space to printmakers in the area. He is the original owner of the press. After some time running the workshop, he decided to go back to school to pursue a law degree. He has had a very successful career in law, eventually opening his own firm in Longmont, CO. The press remained in storage throughout his law career. A year ago, he contacted Tony Crowley asking whether he might want to buy the press. Tony suggested he consider donating it to NEW and we're grateful he did! After the upcoming building renovations at the Center for Visual Arts, the Griffin will become NEW's dedicated etching press.

Traveling Exhibition

Forty-two prints from the NEW archive were shown at Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois. The show ran from September 19th - November 20th, 2015 at the Atrium Gallery in Kindlon Hall. Teresa Parker, Curator of Benedictine University Art Gallery and Collections and ISU MFA alumna, selected the works to be displayed from over two hundred fifty collaborative prints completed at NEW since its founding in 1976. This show also includes the acquisition of an impression of *Red Apples* by Donald Lipski for Benedictine University's collection.



Dylan Welch, Veda Rives, and Eleanor Jensen after Eleanor's public lecture



Silent Auction Item:
Mr. Bad Ideas by Morgan Price
 2015, one-color lithograph
 16" x 11" image, 25" x 18" framed

Printmakers' Exhibition and Sale

The 31st Annual Printmakers' Exhibition and Sale will be held on **Friday, December 4th** from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM in the Intaglio Studio, room 123 in the Center for the Visual Arts (CVA) building. All prints are original artworks by ISU students, faculty, staff, alumni, and visiting artists. CVA is located on the south side of campus on Beaufort Street. Hourly parking is available at the south University structure on University Street.

Six silent auction items are featured in the event. *Skip Softly My Moonbeams*



Silent Auction Item:
Skip Softly My Moonbeams by Academy Records (Stephen Lacy), 2015, four-color lithograph
 30 1/8" x 22 1/2" image, 36" x 30" framed



Silent Auction Item:
Conversational Flow by Veda Rives
 2010, six-color letterpress & lithograph
 15" x 19" image, 20" x 24" framed

by **Academy Records (Stephen Lacy)** is a 30 1/8" x 22 1/2" four-color lithograph. Minimum bid for this framed impression at the silent auction is \$300.00 (retail price is \$600.00, unframed). *Just Follow These...* by **John Himmelfarb** is a 10 1/2" x 7" one-color lithograph. Minimum bid for the framed impression is \$100 (retail price is \$250, unframed).

Four prints are designated to benefit the Printmaking Student Travel Fund to support student participation in national and regional conferences. *Mr. Bad Ideas* by Morgan Price is a 16" x 11" one-color lithograph. Minimum bid for this framed impression is \$95.00 (retail price is \$165.00, unframed). *Conversational Flow* by Veda Rives is a 15" x 19" six-color letterpress and lithograph. Minimum bid for this framed impression is \$150.00 (retail price is \$300.00, unframed). *Congruent Idiom* by Tony Crowley is a 6" x 6" multi-



Silent Auction Item:
Just Follow These... by John Himmelfarb
 1998, one-color lithograph
 10 1/2" x 7" image, 18" x 14" framed



Silent Auction Item:
Congruent Idiom by Tony Crowley
 2015, multi-color collagraph
 6" x 6" image, 18" x 14" framed

color collagraph. Minimum bid for this framed impression is \$92.73 (retail price of \$150.00, unframed). *My Very Best Advice* by Sarah Smelser is a 24" x 18" monotype. Minimum bid for this framed impression is \$350.00 (retail price of \$1,200.00, unframed).

All bids must be received by 4:30 PM (CST) on Friday, December 4th. Written bids may be submitted anytime before the deadline to: Veda Rives, Campus Box 5620, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790-5620. Email bids may be submitted to: normaleditionsworkshop@ilstu.edu.

All proceeds from the event will be used to support the ISU printmaking program. Silent Auction winners will be announced at 5:00 PM on December 4th. Participants need not be present to win.



Silent Auction Item:
My Very Best Advice by Sarah Smelser
 2015, monotype
 24" x 18" image, 30" x 23" framed



Morgan Price, Christopher Hagen, Samantha Buchanan, Micah Zavacky, Sarah Smelser, Dylan Welch, and Veda Rives celebrate Chris' and Sam's thesis exhibits

Personnel News

Sarah Smelser and **Morgan Price** both joined the Normal Editions Workshop Team in the 2015 Spring semester via faculty assignments equivalent to a studio course. This resulted in a positive impact on the staffing hours available for collaboration, print production, and grant writing.

Morgan Price continues to teach lithography, lead the printmaking graduate instruction this semester, and also stepped in as coordinator for the 2D area this fall. Morgan currently has a solo exhibition of prints at McHenry County College. Morgan also continues his service to Mid-America Print Council (MAPC) as Vice President for a two-year term, 2014-2016, for this educational organization promoting awareness and appreciation of the art of making original prints, books, hand-made paper, and drawings.

Veda Rives continues as Interim Director for NEW and recently served as the A/P representative on the University's search committee in the selection process for a new dean for the College of Fine Arts. Her work, including two large-scale installations created in collaboration with Meda Rives, were exhibited recently including *Turning the Page: Contemporary Artists' Books*, an eight-artist museum show at the Swope Art Museum in Terre Haute, Indiana and the invitational exhibition



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Normal Editions Workshop Newsletter

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Bound by Tradition, Unbound by Choice: Contemporary Artists Books at the Springfield Art Association.

Sarah Smelser was promoted to full Professor during the spring semester, a well-deserved recognition of her years of service to the University. Sarah kicked off a productive sabbatical with a residency at Anchor Graphics of Columbia College in Chicago over the summer. In November, she and her family headed to Ireland for a residency at Ballinglen Arts Foundation and then to Europe for further travel abroad. Bon voyage!

We are excited to have **Tony Crowley** join the printmaking faculty to teach intaglio courses while Sarah Smelser is on sabbatical during this fall semester. Tony Crowley earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Colorado State University in 1975 and his Master of Fine Arts from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1980. He began his teaching career at Tarkio College in Missouri, moving to Grinnell College in Iowa in 1989. After thirteen years of service at Grinnell, Crowley became Chair of the Department of Art at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan and joined Illinois State University as Director of the School of Art in 2007. Tony returned to the teaching faculty in 2015.

NEW welcomes **Felicia Cannon** to the NEW Team-Fall 2015. Felicia began her first year as a printmaking graduate student in the School of Art's three-year MFA program this fall. Felicia hails from Florida but lived most recently in Murfreesboro, TN where she received her BFA from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). At MTSU, Felicia was an active member of the Printers Proof club, working as a studio assistant for the Printmaking program, and as a scene painter for the Department of Theatre. We're grateful to her MTSU professor and our alumnus, Nick Satinover, for recommending Illinois State and Felicia!

Returning grads **Dylan Welch** and **Micah Zavacky** were excited to start the fall semester after eventful summers.



Morgan Price, Christopher Hagen, and Sarah Smelser in full regalia at commencement 2015



The many-armed NEW printmaking goddess comes to those in time of need

Dylan was married to Greg Sullo in June at Cometogetherspace, a Bloomington community arts venue co-founded by alumna Lisa Lofgren ('12). Micah Zavacky, Chris Hagen, Sam Buchanan, and Eleanor Jensen ('09) helped run a fabulous printmaking workshop for their wedding guests. Dylan also taught workshops locally at McLean County Arts Center.

Micah spent his summer teaching workshops. Some were local at the McLean County Arts Center and others were at his hometown's printmaking cooperative, the Dayton Printmakers' Cooperative in Ohio. Through the McLean County Arts Center, he taught a plein-air landscape painting workshop as well as a week-long drawing and comic class. In Dayton, he taught a two-day stone lithography workshop.

Undergraduate printmaking student, **Megan Hinds**, was accepted into the highly competitive School of Art BFA program. Megan's work includes installation and inter-disciplinary media in her investigations of patterns inspired by groups of animals. Her BFA exhibition opens December 1st in Transpace Gallery. Congratulations Megan!

All three printmaking graduate students have opportunities to assist in all aspects of NEW from printing to newsletter writing, and all three also hold lab hours in the lithography and intaglio studios. Additionally, Dylan is the Instructor of Record for a section of Drawing Fundamentals, Micah is Graduate Assistant (GA) for Intaglio I and Litho I, and Felicia is GA for Litho I.

NEW congratulates **Samantha Buchanan** and **Chris Hagen** on the successful completion of their MFA thesis shows in the spring. Chris is enjoying time with family and wildlife in his peaceful Wisconsin home before heading to Australia. Sam is getting acquainted with the printmaking scene in Reno, Nevada where she moved after graduation.



Veda Rives, Laura Splan, and Morgan Price are all smiles when the Right to Print impression was selected from the group of Color Trial Proofs in October

Fell Trust Award

Thanks to the support of a Fell Trust award, Maritza Davila will be visiting campus for a week in January 2016 to give a public lecture and collaborate with NEW on a print project. Davila is a professor of fine arts at Memphis College of Art where she is the head of the printmaking/book arts/papermaking area. Davila earned her BA in art education, printmaking and painting from the University of Puerto Rico and received her MFA in painting and printmaking from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. We look forward to collaborating with Davila. Her lecture will be presented at noon Tuesday, January 26th at University Galleries, uptown station. The public is invited to attend the lecture and also stop by NEW in the Center for the Visual Arts building, room 129A, to observe the artist's working methods and the collaboration in progress that week.

Keep in Touch!

University Galleries hosted the *Alumni Spectacular* exhibition this year which featured at least 35 alumni who were significantly involved in printmaking. As our network continues to grow, we remain proud of the artistic, professional, and personal accomplishments of our alumni. We will be including alumni notes in the next edition of this newsletter, so please send personal and professional updates to normal-editions-workshop@ilstu.edu.



Former NEW assistant and ISU alumna Jessica Benjamin (left) chats with Veda at the *Alumni Spectacular* opening. Former NEW assistant Cara Kerchner is verklempt, no doubt by the fantastic event!

642 Likes and Counting

Thanks to everybody who has liked ISU Printmaking on Facebook! We continue to keep the site updated with current events, media, and opportunities from the printmaking community, including news from NEW. <https://www.facebook.com/ISUPrintmaking>

Endowment Fund for NEW

NEW continues to work towards the long-term endowment goal of \$100,000.00 to secure the future of NEW. Private donations from several individuals made the initial endowment possible, and the endowment is currently at \$29,000.00. You can add your support to the Normal Editions Workshop Endowed Fund with your gift online by going to <http://www.illinoisstate.edu> and clicking on the "Make a Gift" tab. Be sure to choose a designation for your gift and type "Normal Editions Workshop" in the "Search Fund Designation" dialog box. Then finish your financial information and submit. We certainly appreciate your support!

Illinois Arts Council Agency Support

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) for its generous support. NEW received a \$4,425.00 general operating grant from the Illinois Arts Council for fiscal year 2015, which concluded August 31st. NEW is very grateful to have received general operating support from the Illinois Arts Council for the past eight years. This funding enhances 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. The IACA has not announced awards for fiscal year 2016 at the time of this publication.

Open Invitation

NEW has an ongoing commitment to the production of limited edition prints in collaboration with visiting artists—including many who have not worked previously with the 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 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



Dylan Welch's FoA grant project: Papermaking Workshop participants take in Lisa Lofgren's ('12) sheet forming demo

expressive potentials of printmaking. The collaborative process always yields many insights for the artists, the staff involved in the projects, and the observers. Proposals for projects are welcome and reviewed periodically.



Friends of the Arts Grants Support Print Student Activities

In September, Micah Zavacky was awarded a Friends of the Arts (FoA) grant to attend a painting workshop at the Castle Hill Art Center in Truro, Massachusetts. One of Micah's art heroes, Lois Dodd, taught the workshop where Micah had an incredibly productive week and returned re-energized and inspired.

Megan Hinds also received a FoA grant to support her solo exhibition in partial fulfillment of her BFA degree. The award helped Megan pay for art supplies to create her work and installation expenses.

Dylan Welch wrapped up her papermaking project, also funded by a FoA grant. Dylan and Lisa Lofgren ('12) brought papermaking out to several events at the Illinois State Horticulture center and ran a papermaking workshop at Cometogetherspace, the community arts venue co-founded by Lisa.

Friends of the Arts is the official support group for the College of Fine Arts and raises over \$30,000 in scholarship funds each year

to support CFA students competitive grant opportunities to College of Fine Arts students of up to \$500 for an individual and up to \$1,000 for a group.



Micah Zavacky and painter Lois Dodd during the painting workshop