



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

1614 Latimer Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

215.735.6090
215.735.5511 fax

info@printcenter.org
www.printcenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ashley Peel Pinkham, 215-735-6090 x2

The Preponderance of Evidence: Shelley Thorstensen
December 11, 2008 – February 14, 2009

Thursday, December 11

Gallery Talk by the Artist: 5:00pm; Opening Reception: 5:30-7:30pm

PHILADELPHIA: The Print Center announces *The Preponderance of Evidence*, an exhibition of work by Pennsylvania artist **Shelley Thorstensen**. The exhibition offers a survey of prints created by the artist during the last six years.

Thorstensen has been celebrated for her technically complex and visually dense works, which often combine several processes, including lithography, etching, screenprinting and relief printing. The works are both improvisational yet highly controlled, juxtaposing transparency and opacity, and subdued color which emerges from behind vivid marks. Complex organic shapes play off regimented architectural forms. Many combine several layers of imagery, mark-making and printmaking processes to form almost conversational juxtapositions; the eye lands on a baroque flourish, then moves to a barely visible flower and on to an atmospheric void. Thorstensen believes it is printmaking's "mediating quality that makes me able to work. I draw through grounds, I sketch on limestone, I paint resists, I scan and manipulate, layer and relayer, retransfer, mask and unmask information, coalescing multiple fragile layers of emotion and vision."

Thorstensen received her BFA from Syracuse University and her MFA from Tyler School of Art. She has taught at Minneapolis College of Art and Design; Moore College of Art and Design, Philadelphia; Mason Gross School of Art, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; University of Delaware, Newark and Women's Studio Workshop, Rosendale, NY. Her solo exhibitions include The Free Library of Philadelphia; the State University of New York, Binghamton and Gallery Recolte, Fukuoka, Japan. Her work is found in several public collections including the Royal Museum of Art, Antwerp, Belgium; Newark Public Library Department of Prints; Texas Tech University, Lubbock and Woodmere Art Museum, Philadelphia. She was awarded this solo exhibition in The Print Center's 81st *Annual International Competition: Printmaking* in 2007.

Thorstensen's work will be on view at The Print Center from December 11, 2008 – February 14, 2009. The opening reception is Thursday, December 11 from 5:30-7:30pm, with a gallery talk by the artist at 5:00pm.

The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including 11 exhibitions annually; The Print Center Gallery Store, offering the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; an extensive series of continuing education programs and special events.

###