



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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Pulling from History: Letterpress
September 7 – November 20, 2010
Thursday, September 16: Reception 5:30-7:30pm

PHILADELPHIA: The Print Center announces *Pulling from History: Letterpress*, which presents letterpress works made by contemporary artists side-by-side with historic examples providing a context for the approaches utilized. For this exhibition, The Print Center's Jensen Bryan Curator John Caperton was joined by Co-Curator Matt Neff, a Philadelphia printmaker who also runs the University of Pennsylvania's Common Press.

For the exhibition, Caperton and Neff asked contemporary artists, curators and collectors to share examples of letterpress works that they found to be inspiring examples of the form; the exhibited works range from a beautifully crafted guide to type fonts to a poster advertising a demolition derby. The works in this exhibition have been lent from several public collections including the Free Library of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania, along with numerous private collections. Artists in the exhibition include Ken Botnick, Johanna Drucker and Carl Pope.

Letterpress is a form of relief printing using cast individual letters and images, which are set together in a form. It was the most common technique for printing text from the time of its invention by Johannes Gutenberg in the mid-15th Century until the 19th Century. Since then, the use of letterpress has diminished in commercial use, but it has recently enjoyed a wide artistic revival, coinciding with the significant current interest in the use of handmade processes in printing. A growing number of organizations and schools are now teaching letterpress, including several in the Philadelphia area, and the medium has become popular with young artists, graphic designers, illustrators, bookmakers, as well as crafters selling their work on Etsy, a social commerce website focused on handmade and vintage items.

Pulling from History: Letterpress will be on view at The Print Center from September 7 – November 20, 2010. The reception is Thursday, September 16 from 5:30-7:30pm, with a gallery talk by John Caperton and Co-Curator Matt Neff at 5:30pm.

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 exhibitions; The Print Center Gallery Store, which offers the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; and an extensive series of education programs and special events.

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