



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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Katie Baldwin: There are Two Stories Here
September 14 – November 17, 2012
Thursday, September 13: Reception 5:30-7:30pm

PHILADELPHIA: *There are Two Stories Here* is an exhibition of new work by Philadelphia artist Katie Baldwin. Baldwin creates woodblock prints that as a group form a complex poetic narrative. A skilled printmaker and bookbinder, Baldwin is deeply committed to traditional print processes and the history of printmaking as craft. She creates complex images comprised of multiple woodblocks, hand-sets lead type and prints her editions by hand. She uses these processes, some of which are archaic and quite technically difficult, as both a meditation on the creative act and a response to the ease with which imagery is proliferated in the digital age.

She says her process is “a physical reminder of limitations, while serving as a direct response to the tactile act of making things.” While there are many obvious links between Baldwin’s practice and the work of Arts & Crafts artists and designers from the last century, Baldwin is not simply celebrating a utopian pre-Industrial world. Her work is rooted in the contemporary world, full of ambiguity, anxiety, nostalgia and cosmopolitanism.

Baldwin attended college in Olympia, WA, an early center of the indy-craft movement, which focuses on traditional handmade craft techniques marketed and sold via the internet on sites such as buyolympia.com and the ubiquitous Etsy.com. While many from that community combined an interest in the handmade with commercial production, Baldwin instead maintains a commitment to create highly sophisticated, small scale artworks which clearly reveal the presence of the artist’s hand.

Baldwin has had the opportunity to travel to many different parts of the world and her experiences working as an artist in other cultures have been fundamental to her artistic development. One of the most significant travels was to Japan for a highly competitive artists residency where she learned the traditional woodblock printing process known as *moku hanga*. She is now regarded as one of the few experts in the technique residing in the United States.

Baldwin received her BFA from Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA and her MFA from the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA. She has been included in numerous exhibitions including: solo shows at the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Wilmington, DE and The Women’s Studio Workshop, Rosendale, NY; and group exhibitions at The Center For Book Arts and International Print Center, both in New York, NY; DIC Square, Tokyo, Japan; Korea Craft Museum, Cheong-ju, Korea; Space 1026, Philadelphia, PA and Miejska Galeria, Lodz, Poland. She has been an artist-in-residence at The Women’s Studio Workshop and is currently the Victor Hammer

Fellow in the Book Arts at Wells College, Aurora, NY. Baldwin's work is included many permanent collections, including: Yale University, New Haven, CT; Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; Free Library of Philadelphia; University of Pennsylvania and Seattle Arts Commission, Seattle, WA.

Katie Baldwin: There are Two Stories Here will be on view September 14 – November 17, 2012. The opening reception is Thursday, September 13 from 5:30-7:30pm, with a gallery talk by the artist at 5:30pm. Baldwin was awarded this solo exhibition from The Print Center's *85th Annual International Competition: Printmaking*.

This exhibition is made possible by special project support from the Edna W. Andrade Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation.

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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