



Printmakers Open Forum: Exchange Portfolio 2019 *Sanctuary*

Director and Curator Shelley Thorstensen's statement:

"Traditional printmaking today retains the zip of the freeze-dried moment, artifice on supple yet fragile paper – the juxtaposition of labor (on a plate, on a stone) with the (almost) instantaneous nature and feel of the printed surface. With the inclusion of newer digital habitation within the output of intaglio, lithograph and silkscreen, printmaking now stands in the cross hairs. For the addition of any new technology is first and foremost of our making and then makes things complicated. It begs question of the artist/printmaker and taunts that one better know what one is doing." - Shelley Thorstensen from *The Realm of All Possibilities*.

As such, Printmakers Open Forum LLC (PMOF) has compiled a portfolio of twenty-six current printmakers work. The portfolio is entitled "Sanctuary" and these 11 x 14" prints represent the state of printmaking as of February 2019. The artists range in age from 23 to 83; they come from 14 different states, as well as Canada and Sweden, and span the spectrum from emerging to well-established artists. One thing all these printmakers have in common is that they have each individually provided help over the years to Printmakers Open Forum.

The idea for this portfolio was conceived by Michael Ezzell during PMOF's PrintCamp2018. He proposed the creation of a portfolio with the theme being "sanctuary". Former PMOF shop assistant Christina Giancola had coined the phrase "Print Shop Sanctuary" in 2012. "Print Shop Sanctuary" refers to the feeling printmakers have while immersed at work in a shop. The idea gained momentum and has now come to fruition in this portfolio. The portfolio will be permanently housed at three locations: Janet Turner Museum, Chico CA permanent collection; Kenosha Public Museum, Kenosha WI permanent collection; and the University of Indiana-Evansville permanent art collection. In addition, the portfolio will tour in various venues starting with an exhibition at the Women's Studio Workshop, Rosendale NY during the summer of 2019.

Artists participating in the "Sanctuary" portfolio include the following: Katie Baldwin –Alabama, Judy Baumann – Oregon, Katharina Bossmann - Kansas, Sebastian Burke– Pennsylvania Tony Carlone - New York, Aaron Coleman – Arizona, Paul DeRuvo – Connecticut, Jeff Dell – Texas, Michael Ezzell - Rhode Island, Cassie Ferguson – Hawaii, Paul Galang - Hawaii , Christina Giancola – Pennsylvania, Carey Good - Rhode Island, Ben Iluzada- Pennsylvania, Jon Irving - New York, Jane Kim – Pennsylvania, Sarah McDermott - West Virginia, Jenn Manzella – Pennsylvania, Ann Piper – Pennsylvania, Allison Rosh – Ohio, Ron Ruble – Wisconsin, Heather Simonsmeier - Alberta Canada, Shelley

Thorstensen – Pennsylvania, Katie VanVliet – Pennsylvania, Patrick Wagner – Sweden, and Michelle Wilson – California.

The colophon for *Sanctuary* is comprised of paper handmade by Tony Carlone from plant fibers from PMOF grounds. The Design of the colophon accomplished with the help of Lyndsey Burke of Risolve Studios.

Printmakers Open Forum, the Home for Wayward Print Girls and Boys, is a free form, shared, non-hierarchical amalgam of printmakers that believe information, technologies, and ideas should be accessed in open-source fashion. Located in Oxford Pennsylvania, PMOF is a working studio utilizing all printmaking techniques: screen-print, intaglio, lithography, relief and digital modalities. One of the missions of PMOF is to help sanely transition good printmakers from college to being a live-to-make-work-another-day artist without dropping them on their heads out of college. PMOF is not a non-profit, but just a shop and does **not** have outside funding. It's a forum to think up stuff and do it – like this portfolio.

For more information about or to schedule exhibitions of this portfolio contact any of the participating artists or write directly to PMOF at info@printmakersopenforum.org.

Find Printmakers Open Forum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Tumblr](#) and at Printmakers Open Forum's [website](#). More on the Printmakers Open Forum Exchange Portfolio, *Sanctuary* [here](#).

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