



INKubator Sessions Call for Participation

2015 SGC INTERNATIONAL PRINTMAKING CONFERENCE
Knoxville, Tennessee • March 18-21, 2015

In 1972 Boyd Saunders, then a new Assistant Professor at the University of South Carolina sent letters to printmaking programs at colleges and universities in the southeastern United States in an effort to meet at the SECAC Conference to be held that year in New Orleans. Saunders was seeking to form a support system of colleagues devoted to making and teaching printmaking. During the conference a small group of printmakers met in the St. Charles Hotel, which served to “INKubate” the formation of the Southeastern Graphics Council, later known as the Southern Graphics Council, and what is known today as SGC International (SGCI).

As part of the 2015 SGC International Conference a series of nine 90-minute “INKubator” sessions are planned. Each of the sessions will be chaired by a separate facilitator and will revolve around a common set of concerns or issues with no more than 30 participants.

To participate in a session, email the facilitator(s) by November 1, 2014.

In advance of the conference, INKubator facilitators will establish an email thread or Yahoo Group to promote common readings or discussions by session participants. While INKubator sessions emphasize collaborative and dialogic processes, they are also intended to foster future outcomes, from exhibitions and portfolios, to projects and publications.

INKubator Session 1: Thursday March 19, 10:00-11:30am, Salon 200 BC **“SGCI Members Survey”**

Facilitators: Justin Diggle, The University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, and Karla Hackenmiller, Ohio University, Athens, OH.
Email: justindiggle@gmail.com

We invite SGCI members to discuss the themes addressed in the online survey that was initiated by the organization earlier this year. The board wanted to canvas members and to receive feedback on a number of issues related to the organization and the annual conference, and to solicit ideas for possible future programming. 315 members responded to the survey, which included participation from a cross section of members and this SGCI Board INKubator session will allow for more discussion about the survey results. Topics may include, but are not limited to: the conference, the new SGCI website, exhibitions, opportunities, membership, professional development, mentoring, new programming etc. The session will be recorded and the written minutes given to the SGCI Executive Board for further discussion.

INKubator Session 2: Thursday March 19, 12:00-1:30pm, Salon 200 BC **“The Local Sphere: Bloom Where You Are Planted”**

Facilitator: Katie Ries, St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI
Email: Katherine.ries@snc.edu

This INKubator Session will consider the Local Sphere as an important arts ecology that can be cultivated, restored, and stewarded by artists and by printmakers specifically. We will share experiences with creating spaces and projects that build and promote a diverse and robust local arts sphere as well as the non-traditional ways in which academic institutions and non-arts businesses can contribute to and partner to support the Local Sphere. Have you started a printshop? Are you

running a non-traditional studio-space or driving your mobile gallery around town? How are you growing, expanding, propping up, cashing in on, or otherwise cultivating your local Art Sphere? We want to hear wisdom from the trenches: what works, what doesn't and what you've done to grow the Local Art Sphere in your area. How can emerging and established artists and printmakers grow their Local Sphere? Emphasis is on collaborative work and practical examples. A small tabloid-sized map of Knoxville's Local Art Sphere will be available to session attendees who wish to take a physical and self-guided tour through the city's Local Sphere.

INKubator Session 3: Thursday March 19, 1:45-3:15pm, Salon 200 BC

“Letterpress and the Domestic Sphere: Women in Printing Past, Present, and Future”

Facilitators: Jessica C. White, independent artist, Asheville, NC and Kseniya Thomas, independent artist, Carlisle, PA

Email: jessica.c.white@gmail.com

As founders of The Ladies of Letterpress, we invite participation in an INKubator session to address the question, “Why are so many women engaged in the current letterpress printing revival?” The session also seeks to address related questions about navigating work, family, and relationships in the domestic sphere while working as a letterpress printer or running a printing business. Discussions will include the history of women in letterpress and related trades, the current shift in the letterpress printing industry from being primarily male dominated to primarily female dominated, as well as personal experiences of balancing work and family obligations. We hope that through the format of the INKubator session we will be able to foster collaborative connections between the session participants to incubate future projects and collaborations.

INKubator Session 4: Thursday March 19, 3:30-5:00pm, Salon 200 BC

“Trekking Tradition, Broadening the Sphere”

Jessica Meuninck Ganger and Nirmal Raja
The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

Email: meuninck@uwm.edu

“Trekking Tradition, Broadening the Sphere” will address the influence of international travel on studio practices, and open the conversation to the potential of travel. The facilitators will focus the conversation on how learning cultural histories and crafts, bringing home newly gained knowledge, and applying it to studio investigations deepens our understanding and use of new and emerging print media. Participants can share how to uniquely apply their own histories in the crafts along with learning those of others via travel, research grants, study abroad programs, residencies, etc. to work in print. Through dialog, they will explore how a global practice enables an exchange of techniques and histories, and how visual conversations with the world shapes innovation within the field.

INKubator Session 5: Friday March 20, 10:00-11:30am, Salon 200 BC

“The Printmaking Legacy Project®”

Facilitators: James Bailey, University of Montana, Missoula, MT; Susan Goldman, Lily Press, Rockville, MD; Anita Jung, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.

Email: goldmanprint@comcast.net

Printmaking Legacy Project ® preserves and disseminates the legacy, history, practice and understanding of the fine art of printmaking to the national and international arts community, students and to the general public. The project documents the collaboration among universities, workshops and professional print studios and how their participants fundamentally changed the course of development in American printmaking and American art. Through fundraising to support public programs, including lectures and workshops, and the creation of a vast archive of documentary interviews of artists and art professionals, the Printmaking Legacy Project ® bridges

the gap between the founders of American printmaking, those working in printmaking today, young artists, students and the general public. Founding Director Susan Goldman, and Board Members James Bailey and Anita Jung invite SGCI members at all stages in their careers to present their ideas and suggestions in undertaking this initiative. We seek to discuss the role of legacy, and how we can combine efforts to insure for the future, preservation of our history. What can we learn from the past and apply to our present and future circumstances? How can the Printmaking Legacy Project ® best serve SGCI and the larger printmaking community?

INKubator Session 6: Friday March 20, 12:00-1:30pm, Salon 200 BC

“The Constructed Sphere: Sculptural Printmakers Tap the Third Dimension”

Facilitator: Linda Jules, Kamloops Printmaker’s Society, Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada

Email: lindajules3@gmail.com

This INKubator Session invites participation from printmakers whose interests lie in producing extra-dimensional works. Expanding the confines of the flat picture plane, sculptural printmakers explore the opportunities presented by printmaking processes, print imagery, paper and alternate materials to produce three-dimensional objects. In the Constructed Sphere, prints exist on the border of two- and three-dimensional space, embracing the history, tradition and process of print, while bending and distorting the flat image into something entirely new and different. From large-scale collaborative woodcut print sculptures to small cut-and-fold etched models, extra-dimensional works are pushing the role of the print beyond its traditional boundaries, conveying both line and volume, depth and flatness. While book forms represent an aspect of 3D prints, this session is focused on examining other manifestations of the 3D print. Participants in this INKubator Session will meet each other, share their work, and discuss strategies for dealing with problems associated with scale, structure, materials, shipping and more. They will have the opportunity to make connections and initiate collaborative projects that can bring this dynamic art form to the attention of the printmaking community and a wider public.

INKubator Session 7: Friday March 20, 1:45-3:15pm, Salon 200 BC

“Photogravure Printer Community”

Facilitator: Jennifer Scheuer, artist, Knoxville, TN.

Email: jenscheuer@yahoo.com

The “Photogravure Printer Community” INKubator session seeks to build a network of contemporary artists and printers who are currently working in the process of photogravure. Recently, a resurgence of interest in photogravure has led to many workshops; however, it is unclear who and where artists are now practicing this 19th century technique. The goal of the session is to build a community to share process and resources, to discuss specifics of the process and local climate, and to hold a discussion of both digital and analog practices. Please bring examples of your photogravures to the session. A hopeful outcome of this INKubator session is to organize a group of artists for a future print exchange of photogravure.

INKubator Session 8: Friday March 20, 3:30-5:00pm, Salon 200 BC

“Shared Visions: Collaborative and Community Arts Actions”

Facilitators: Hugh Merrill, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO, and

Adelia Ganson, Chameleon Arts and Youth Development, Kansas City, MO

Email: adeliaGanson@gmail.com

From early political cartoons to Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, images combined with the written word have changed the world. We are interested in the role of printmaking in social change and where it intersects with the role of art and artists. It is our belief that printmakers and printmaking

students demonstrate creative avenues and ways to produce work that transcend labels, boundaries, and methodology. With the advent of a hyper-digital society, the power of original prints and graphics has increased. In our world of the backlit retina screen, a hand produced print, card, zine, or site specific image gains worthy attention, and gives artists the opportunity to disseminate opinion or information in a way the viewing audience can and will remember. This INKubator session will explore whether art can actively create social change? Why or why not? How can printmakers affect social change? What places print in a prime position to use creativity for social change? We view the session as an exchange of ideas and methods, and as a way of connecting artist/printmakers to disseminate their ideas and invent new arts actions pursuing social justice and audience involvement.

INKubator Session 8: Friday March 20, 3:30-5:00pm, Salon 200 DE

**“Creating Networking Spheres:
Conceiving Regional Print Conferences”**

Facilitator: Matthew McLaughlin, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

Email: MTMprints@gmail.com

This SGCI Board initiated INKubator session will address the prospect of creating a series of regional printmaking conferences through SGC International in the future. Based on the model of other organizations, like Society for Photographic Education (SPE), the board has initiated this session to consider if regional conferences may better serve our members. We hope to gauge the interest of the membership and discuss the positive and negative effects such smaller conferences may have on the annual international one and on other smaller printmaking organizations and conferences. This session aims to gather and discuss a future prospect for SGC International regional conferences for further collaboration and connections. The session will be recorded and the written minutes given to the SGCI Executive Board for further discussion.