



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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## ***Denise Bookwalter: The Knitter's Hand and the Telegrapher's Fist***

January 23 – March 28, 2015

Thursday, January 22: Gallery Talk by the artist, 5:30pm

Opening Reception 6:00-8:00pm

**PHILADELPHIA:** *Denise Bookwalter: The Knitter's Hand and the Telegrapher's Fist* brings together new prints and artist's books by the Tallahassee, FL based artist. Bookwalter's works come out of her extensive research into a wide range of topics, from experimental machines to origami, and take experimental forms based on book structures and packaging.

Bookwalter's practice is noted for its intriguing and unexpected approaches to the forms, structures and processes related to book making. Her diverse approaches in recent works have included burning text into the page, creating 3-D models within the pages of a book and utilizing modular systems to construct complex works. At the same time, Bookwalter's work involves exhaustive research into highly specific subjects, including the biographies of almost-forgotten early aviators. "The disregarded records, figures or facts," Bookwalter says, "merge and become the atypical moments that facilitate my knowledge of materials, technology and objects. These moments nourish intuition and lead to invention. The combination of research, information and play is the subject of my work." The title of the exhibition refers to the translation of instructions and codes into handmade objects. "Knitters follow coded knitting patterns but each hand will produce a slightly different object," Bookwalter says, "When sending telegraphs each operator had a distinct style called the telegrapher's fist. It is the variation of the human hand in interpreting these codes and languages that inspire my work for this show."

In 2009, Bookwalter founded Small Craft Advisory Press, an artist's book press at Florida State University, which creates artist's book editions that push the boundaries and traditions of book arts. Recent projects have included editions by Katie Baldwin, Lee Emma Running, Michelle Ray and Allison Milham.

Recent solo exhibitions of Bookwalter's work have been organized by the Alexander Brest Museum, Jacksonville, FL; Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, OH; Bob Rauschenberg Gallery, Edison College, Fort Meyers, FL; and the Misciagna Center Sheetz Gallery, Penn State, Altoona, PA. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at the San Francisco Center for the Book, San Francisco, CA; International Print Center New York, New York, NY; Turner Print Museum, Chico, CA; and the Haydon Art Center, Lincoln, NE.

This exhibition was awarded from The Print Center's *88th Annual International Competition*, juried by Julia Dolan, Minor White Curator of Photography, and Bruce Guenther, Chief Curator, Mercedes Eichholz Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, both of the Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR.

*Denise Bookwalter: The Knitter's Hand and the Telegrapher's Fist* will be on view January 23 – March 28, 2015, from 11:00am-6:00pm, Tuesdays-Saturdays. An opening reception will be held Thursday, January 22, from 6:00-8:00pm, with a gallery talk by the artist at 5:30pm. Admission is free and open to the public.

***About The Print Center***

*The Print Center celebrates a century of inspiring printmaking and photography and encourages the growth and understanding of photography and printmaking as vital contemporary arts through exhibitions, publications and educational programs. The Print Center has an international voice and a strong sense of local purpose. Free and open to the public, it presents changing exhibitions which highlight established and emerging, local, national, and international contemporary artists. It mounts one of the oldest art competitions in the country, now in its 89<sup>th</sup> year and the Gallery Store offers the largest selection of contemporary prints and photographs available for sale in Philadelphia. For more information, including a full list of our programs, go to: [www.printcenter.org](http://www.printcenter.org)*