



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

NEWS RELEASE

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Terry Adkins & The Common Press: 7th Ward

April 4 – June 7, 2014

Thursday, April 3: Gallery Talk 5:30pm; Opening Reception 6:00-8:00pm

PHILADELPHIA: Terry Adkins (1953–2014) created the portfolio *The Philadelphia Negro Reconsidered*, 2012, in collaboration with **The Common Press** at the University of Pennsylvania, which is directed by **Matt Neff**. The portfolio of eighteen screenprints was inspired by *The Philadelphia Negro - W.E.B. Du Bois'* pioneering demographic study written in 1899. It examined Philadelphia's original 7th Ward, the neighborhood in which The Print Center is located. The exhibition is mounted in honor of Adkins, who was a mentor, friend and collaborator of Neff's.

Terry Adkins died on Feb. 8, 2014 at the age of 60. Adkins was Professor of Fine Arts at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design. His work is found in the collections of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Tate Modern, London, and is currently included in the 2014 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Adkins earned a BS in Printmaking from Fisk University, an MS in the field from Illinois State University and an MFA in Sculpture from the University of Kentucky. His work was the subject of a major retrospective in 2012 at the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY.

Adkins' *The Philadelphia Negro Reconsidered* recontextualizes the color-coded mapping used by Du Bois in his research on black American urban life. Rescaled, layered and superimposed, these cartographic images become modernist works of art. The portfolio was created in commemoration of Du Bois' appointment to Honorary Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies in 2012, at the University of Pennsylvania, and includes an imaginary interview of Du Bois by Tufuku Zuberi, PhD., Chair, Department of Sociology and Lasry Family Professor of Race Relations. The portfolio was produced collaboratively by Adkins, Marc Blumthal, Matt Neff and Ivanco Talevski at The Common Press, University of Pennsylvania School of Design, Department of Fine Arts, Philadelphia.

The Common Press is a letterpress printing studio at the University of Pennsylvania, and is a collaboration between Penn's Kelly Writers House, the Rare Book & Manuscript Library and the School of Design. The Common Press assists in teaching design and facilitates collaborative projects across the university. It was founded on January 17, 2006, the 300th anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth.

The exhibition will be on view at The Print Center from April 4 – June 7, 2014, from 11:00am-6:00pm Tuesdays-Saturdays, and is free and open to the public. The opening reception is Thursday, April 3 from 6:00-8:00pm with a gallery talk by Matt Neff and Executive Director Elizabeth Spungen 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.