



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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Ephemeral Sprawl II

June 20 – August 2, 2014

Thursday, June 19: Gallery Talk by Amze Emmons & John Caperton, 5:30pm;

Opening Reception 6:00-8:00pm

PHILADELPHIA- (June 12, 2015)- *Ephemeral Sprawl II* is the second part of an exhibition of contemporary printed ephemera co-curated by The Print Center and Printeresting, a collaborative art blog and occasional arts producer. The exhibition has been presented in two parts, the first installment was on view September 13 – November 23, 2013.

Ephemeral Sprawl explores broad and often overlapping themes including activism, entertainment and community, through the presentation of a wide range of collections and newly made works. The structure of the show is modular and fluid – the work on display will change every few weeks, rewarding repeat visits. The exhibition is a creative survey of the way printed ephemera has woven itself invisibly into our understanding of art and culture. It features historically significant objects, and collections of ephemera compiled by noted critics, curators and institutional archives, in conversation with intersecting work by contemporary artists. By placing historical, popular and creative works in a close proximity, the viewer's understanding of how value is generated and accrued within a cultural context is deepened. *Ephemeral Sprawl* was inspired by a series of publications edited by Alfred Jarry, the author of the 1896 play *Ubu Roi* and who is considered by many to be a progenitor of the modern avant-garde, that sought to put populist mass produced printed ephemera in conversation with works of historical significance and the leading graphic work of his day. The ephemera in the exhibition ranges broadly and includes a collection of dozens of editions of George Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia*, radical Philadelphia publications from the 1970s, fliers for performances and artist designed bubblegum cards.

The Print Center co-curated the exhibition with Printeresting, a collaborative team made up of artists Amze Emmons, R. L. Tillman and Jason Urban. Since 2008, Printeresting has been known as "the thinking person's favorite online resource for interesting printmaking miscellany." The blog has become a major proponent for innovative contemporary printmaking and a leading voice in the international printmaking community. Beyond Printeresting's online presence, they are "real world" art producers, producing events, exhibitions and projects that embody and complement the written work on the site. This is an organic extension of their blogging which allows them to utilize their collective skills as artists, managers and producers. Like the site itself, these endeavors also serve to locate, curate, showcase, contextualize, model and often distribute, artwork that is in conversation with print and material culture. Their exhibitions include: *Rum Riot Press*, 2012, Space Gallery, Portland, ME; *Past Present*, 2011, St. Louis Artist's Guild, St. Louis, MO; *4x4*, 2010, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA; *Copy Jam*, 2010, Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction, Philadelphia, PA; *Copy Jam 2: Text Edition*, 2010, Columbia College, Center for the Book, Chicago, IL; and *One Every Day*, 2009, EFA Project Space, New York, NY.

Ephemeral Sprawl will be on view June 20 – August 2, 2014, from 11:00am-6:00pm, Tuesdays-Saturdays. An opening reception will be held Thursday, June 19th from 6:00-8:00pm, with a gallery talk by Amze Emmons of Printeresting and John Caperton, Jensen Bryan Curator, The Print Center, at 5:30pm. Admission is free and open to the public.

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.