

THE PRINT CENTER

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August 1, 2017

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Martin Puryear: Prints, 1962 – 2016

September 8 — November 18, 2017

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 7, 6:00 – 8:00pm

Gallery Talk: Thursday, September 7, 5:30pm with Elizabeth F. Spungen, Executive Director

Press Preview: Wednesday, September 6, 11:00am | RSVP to mbregande@printcenter.org

PHILADELPHIA, PA - (August 1, 2017) The Print Center celebrates one of our most important and influential contemporary American artists: **Martin Puryear**. An internationally renowned sculptor, the exhibition, *Martin Puryear: Prints, 1962 – 2016*, will be the first in Philadelphia dedicated to Puryear in twenty-five years and will offer an in-depth investigation of the printed works created from 1962 to 2016 by this MacArthur Fellow. The Print Center is pleased to present a major exhibition of Puryear's woodcuts and etchings, guest curated by independent curator **Ruth Fine**, in conjunction with the **Association for Public Art's** (aPA) installation of Puryear's monumental work *Big Bling* in Philadelphia. Accompanying this landmark exhibition, an essay on Puryear's prints by Fine will be published, in which she states: "[A] critical marker of Martin's Puryear's art in all of its multiple dimensions remains his intense curiosity as to what is possible, inspiring both objects and works on paper, as his practice of more than six decades continues to evolve."



Martin Puryear, *Untitled VI, State 1*, 2012

Please join us for a **Press Preview** of this significant show of Puryear's prints on Wednesday, September 6 at 11:00am. RSVP to mbregande@printcenter.org

I think there are a number of levels at which my work can be dealt with and appreciated. It gives me pleasure to feel there's a level that doesn't require knowledge of or immersion in the aesthetic of a given time or place.

— Martin Puryear

Ruth Fine is an independent curator based in Philadelphia; she has been involved with The Print Center since her student days at the University of the Arts. In the 1970's she printed in our lithography studio and later served as an Advisory Board member. She stewarded longtime Board member Lessing Rosenwald's print collection, which she accompanied from his home in Abington, PA to the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, taking up a curatorial position there. She recently retired from that institution as Curator of Special Projects in Modern Art after an exceptional career, including the coordination of *The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection: Fifty Works for Fifty States* project. Recently she curated *Procession: The Art of Norman Lewis* for the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (2015) and contributed to the catalog for the *Martin Puryear: Multiple Dimensions* (2015) exhibition organized by The Art Institute of Chicago, which traveled to the Morgan Library & Museum, NY and Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC.

The forms explored in Puryear's sculpture, often rooted in nature, are equally powerful in his prints, the creation of which has been sporadic. As evident in this exhibition, Puryear's most expansive bodies of prints date to the 1960s, and since 1999. During these past two decades, his productivity in printmaking has been extensive, emphasizing the most tactile of the print processes: woodcut, a relief process, and the various etching (intaglio) techniques.

— Ruth Fine



The Print Center is delighted to present the masterful prints of Martin Puryear to Philadelphia. We are honored to work with the talented and generous curator Ruth Fine. It is also a privilege to showcase the artist's rarely seen early self-published prints, as well as publications of the exceptional print publishers Paulson Fontaine and Universal Limited Art Editions, and the esteemed book publisher Arion Press.

— Elizabeth Spungen

Executive Director, The Print Center

Image Credits

Martin Puryear, *Untitled VI, State 1*, 2012. © Martin Puryear, Courtesy Matthew Marks Gallery

Martin Puryear, *Big Bling*, 2016. © Martin Puryear, Courtesy Matthew Marks Gallery, Photo: James Ewing Photography for Association for Public Art.

About Martin Puryear

Martin Puryear was born in 1941 in Washington, DC, and earned his BA at Catholic University of America, Washington, DC in 1963. He provided volunteer service to the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone from 1964 to 1966, after which he attended the Swedish Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Stockholm, from 1966 to 1968. He received his MFA from Yale University, New Haven, CT in 1971. Puryear's first one-person exhibition opened in 1968, and since that time he has exhibited his work throughout the world, including the realization of public commissions in Europe, Asia and the US. He was the US representative to the 1989 Bienal de São Paulo, Brazil, for which he was awarded the festival's Grand Prize, and in 1992, his work was included in *Documenta*. In 2007, the Museum of Modern Art, NY, organized a retrospective exhibition of his work which traveled to the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. In 2015, the Art Institute of Chicago organized an exhibition of his works on paper, the first to explore this aspect of his oeuvre, which traveled to the Morgan Library & Museum, NY and Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC. Puryear received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1982, a MacArthur Foundation award in 1989, the Gold Medal in Sculpture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2007, the National Medal of Arts in 2011 and the Association for Public Art's Medal of Honor in 2017. Puryear lives and works in the Hudson Valley region of New York and is represented by Matthew Marks Gallery, NY.

About the Association for Public Art

The Association for Public Art (aPA) commissions, preserves, interprets and promotes public art in Philadelphia. "We respond to the conditions of our time, adding new perspectives to the civic landscape and maintaining a legacy for future generations, while promoting Philadelphia as a premier city for public art." www.associationforpublicart.org

About *Big Bling*

Martin Puryear, *Big Bling*, 2016 is presented in Philadelphia by the Association for Public Art in collaboration with Madison Square Park Conservancy, NY. The sculpture, first exhibited by the contemporary art program, Mad. Sq. Art, NY, is installed on Kelly Drive, Philadelphia through November 2017.

Big Bling has been recognized as one of the most compelling public artworks of 2016 through The Americans for the Arts Public Art Network Year in Review program.

About Paulson Fontaine Press

Paulson Fontaine Press (formerly Paulson Bott Press) specializes in limited edition intaglio prints. The press emerged from the San Francisco Bay Area's rich tradition of fine art printmaking. Since its founding in 1997, the press has published more than 500 editions with more than 45 artists including Tauba Auerbach, Ross Bleckner, Spencer Finch, Isca Greenfield-Sanders, the Quilters of Gee's Bend, Kerry James Marshall and Martin Puryear. The press' entire archive is now a part of the collection of The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

Paulson Fontaine Press's philosophy is to facilitate rather than direct an artist, creating an environment where artists can do their best work.

About Universal Limited Art Editions

Universal Limited Art Editions (ULAE) is a fine art print publisher established in 1957 by Tatyana Grosman. Initially making lithographs with artists such as Larry Rivers, Sam Francis, Jasper Johns, and Robert Rauschenberg, ULAE sparked a revival of printmaking in America. Today, ULAE continues to collaborate with artists to publish small edition prints and artists' books using a wide variety of processes. Only seven years after ULAE published its first edition, ninety-seven of its editions were chosen for the exhibition that inaugurated the new graphic galleries at the Museum of Modern Art. Since then, MoMA has acquired the first print of every ULAE edition.

About Arion Press

Arion Press aims to match the finest contemporary art with the finest literature, past and present, in books that are beautifully designed and produced.

Printer-publisher Andrew Hoyem employs the exacting standards and skilled craftsmanship of the fine printing tradition in the service of an ambitious publication program. Two to three limited edition books are published per year. Each is conceptually unique, bringing together a significant text with a contemporary artist, or in other cases, a purely typographic interpretation. Those illustrated by prominent artists are often accompanied by separate editions of original prints.

Martin Puryear: Prints, 1962 –2016

PROGRAMS

Thursday, September 7

—Gallery Talk 5:30pm
—Opening Reception 6:00 - 8:00pm

Sunday, November 12

—Network for New Music: *Puryear Connections* 3:00 - 5:00pm

Network commissioned composers Cynthia Folio, Robert Maggio, Jeffrey Mumford and Roberto Pace to write new music in response to Martin Puryear's prints. Charles Wuorinen's String Trio will also be performed at The Print Center. There will be a reception following the concert.

TICKET REQUIRED. Go to www.networkfornewmusic.org

Please visit The Print Center's website, www.printcenter.org, for more information on exhibitions and additional programs.

About The Print Center

For more than a century, The Print Center has encouraged 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 91st year and the Gallery Store offers the largest selection of contemporary prints and photographs available for sale in Philadelphia.

Funders

Support for The Print Center is offered by Brilliant Graphics; Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation; Flaster Greenberg PC; Forman Family Fund; Fund for Children; Golden Rule Foundation; Allen Hilles Fund; KSK Architects Planners Historians, Inc.; National Endowment for the Arts; William Penn Foundation; Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; Philadelphia Cultural Fund; The Philadelphia Foundation; Rosenlund Family Foundation; Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP; Sheila Fortune Foundation; Stockton Rush Bartol Foundation; Union Benevolent Association; University of the Arts; University of Pennsylvania Office of Government and Community Affairs; Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial and contributions from our Board of Governors, Luminaries, members and friends.

General Information

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www.printcenter.org
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Free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday 11:00am - 6:00pm

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