



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

83rd Annual International Competition: Printmaking

Director's Letter

On behalf of The Print Center, I am very pleased to present our *83rd Annual International Competition: Printmaking*; renowned both for being the oldest such competition in the United States and for the exceptionally high quality works in the resulting exhibitions. Alternating each year between printmaking and photography, the competition draws artists from all over the world, and even at the distinguished age of 83 continues to attract an ever growing number of entries.

We are very pleased to have the participation of guest jurors Shelly Bancroft and Peter Nesbett, who carefully selected 33 pieces by 29 artists from more than 1,900 works submitted by 482 artists. Following our intention to keep the competition vibrant and relevant, we invited Shelly and Peter's participation due to their deep knowledge of contemporary printmaking gleaned from their activities as co-publishers of *Art on Paper* magazine, combined with their idiosyncratic and even controversial curatorial stance evidenced by the work done at their nonprofit contemporary art venue Triple Candie in Harlem, New York.

Shelly holds a BA in Painting from Michigan State University and an MA in Art History from the University of Washington, Seattle. She served as Curator of Exhibitions, Boston Center for the Arts, and was the Director of the Boston Sculptors at Chapel Gallery. Shelly was also the founder and producer of a Seattle-based radio program devoted to the visual arts entitled *Art in Your Ear*, which featured interviews with artists and arts professionals such as Jeff Wall, Josiah McElheny, and Gary Garrels.

Peter, who also serves *Art on Paper* as its editor, holds a BA in Visual Studies from Cornell University, an MA in Art History from the University of Washington, Seattle and a post-master's certificate in Executive Management from the Institute for Not-for-Profit Management at Columbia University. He was the recipient of a research fellowship from Boston University and a major research grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities. Peter founded and directed the Jacob Lawrence Catalogue Raisonné Project, through which more than 1,000 of the artist's works were located, documented and published and exhibited. The resulting publication earned the prestigious George Wittenborn Art Book Award from the Art Libraries Society of North America. Peter has also served as the Interim Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, Seattle Art Museum, and held positions at Christie, Manson & Woods, International, NY, and Gagolian Gallery, NY.

Together they co-founded and co-direct Triple Candie. Initially producing traditional style exhibitions and programs with contemporary artists such as Laylah Ali, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Jim Hodges, Bruce Nauman, Howardena Pindell, Bill Viola, and Andrea Zittel, since 2006 exhibitions have been about art, but have not included art and are realized without the involvement of artists. Shows have included unauthorized retrospectives on the work of reclusive artists, such as David Hammons and Cady Noland; a retrospective of a fictional post-Minimalist; the recreation of a pioneering 1950s-era photography gallery; a quasi-anthropological exhibition of common objects; and an unauthorized archive and reading room dedicated to New York-based curator-writer-critic Matthew Higgs.

As you will read in their Juror's Statement, Shelly and Peter wrestled with the concept for this exhibition as they prepared their selections. After considering several alternative presentation modes, they elected to stay within traditional boundaries. We nonetheless found their ideas for subverting typical practice a stimulating injection of contemporary curatorial concept into the long history of the Competition.

We are proud to be able to present over \$2,250 in purchase, cash, material and exhibition awards to eight artists. The two prestigious purchase prizes include the Philadelphia Museum of Art Purchase Award selected by John Ittmann, Curator of Prints, Philadelphia Museum of Art. Through that award, The Print Center Collection at the Philadelphia Museum of Art will be enhanced by **Thomas Wood's** *The Pollinators*, 2007. It is my honor to award The Graphic Chemical and Ink Company Purchase Award (\$300) for a hand-pulled print to **Aspasia Tsoutsoura**.

We are pleased to announce cash and material award recipients selected by me together with The Print Center's Curator of Prints and Photographs John Caperton: The Jacqueline L. Zemel Prize (\$500) was awarded to **Stella Ebner**; The Print Center's Honorary Council Award Honorable Mention (\$100) was granted to **Aline Feldman**; The Art on Paper Award (one year subscription) was awarded to **John Williams**; the Renaissance Graphic Arts, Inc. Award (\$50) to **Peter Haarz** and the Silicon Gallery Fine Art Print Award (\$250) to **Will Work For Good** and the opportunity for a solo exhibition to **Andrew Kozlowski**.

At the age of ninety-four, The Print Center continues to expand its vision in support of printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and to encourage the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center is an internationally recognized organization providing opportunities for artists to exhibit, exchange ideas and sell work, through group and solo exhibitions, the *Annual International Competition*, The Print Center Series of continuing education programs and The Print Center Gallery Store. I extend our deepest gratitude to all of the outstanding artists whom submitted work for this year's competition, and to jurors Shelly Bancroft and Peter Nesbett for making the *83rd Annual International Competition: Printmaking* thought-provoking and relevant.

–Elizabeth Spungen
Executive Director
May 2009