

85th Annual International Competition: **Printmaking**

Executive Director's Letter

Presenting the *Annual International Competition* is always an important event at The Print Center, not only because of its renown as one of the oldest such competitions in the United States, but also because it provides a view of the best new developments in our field. The exhibition, which alternates between photography and printmaking, celebrates its 85th iteration this year, and is focused on Printmaking. Of great interest is the wide array of styles and techniques demonstrated in the selected works; traditional approaches such as lithographic and woodblock prints are interspersed with the recently reinvigorated letterpress and the currently popular moku hanga, as well as the perhaps unexpected appearance of photography and video.

Our exceptional jurors, Emi Eu, Executive Director, Singapore Tyler Print Institute, Singapore, and Sarah Suzuki, Associate Curator of Prints and Illustrated Books at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, pored over 1,400 images submitted by 350 artists before selecting 41 artworks from 25 artists for the exhibition. From this large pool, they pulled a cohesive exhibition focused around several prominent motifs including the ubiquitous iconic image, landscapes both real and imagined; network views of brambles and constellations, cells and circuits; and schematically presented personal narratives.

Eu and Suzuki brought an incredible range of knowledge of contemporary printmaking to the process, gleaned through their extensive work with artists from around the world; both have been involved with numerous complex and ambitiously scaled projects which have pushed the boundaries of printmaking. Singapore Tyler Print Institute (STPI) is an international publisher and dealer of fine art prints and works on paper with an active exhibition program. STPI collaborates with outstanding artists from around the world to push the technical and aesthetic frontiers of printmaking and papermaking, creating edition prints and unique works on paper. In the last year they have produced works with Teresita Fernández, Do-Ho Suh, Jiten Thukral and Sumir Tagra. Eu is currently organizing an exhibition of the work of Jimmy Ong and has recently organized exhibitions of the work of Trenton Doyle Hancock, Chua Ek Kay and Tabaimo. At MoMA, Suzuki has organized exhibitions including *'Ideas Not Theories': Artists and The Club, 1942-1962* (2010), *Rock Paper Scissors* (2010), *Mind & Matter: Alternative Abstractions, 1940 to Now* (2010), *Wunderkammer: A Century of Curiosities* (2008), and *Focus: Elizabeth Murray* (2005), as well as solo projects with Yin Xiuzhen (2010), Song Dong (2009) and Gert and Uwe Tobias (2008). She has contributed to numerous books and catalogues including *Eye on Europe: Prints, Books & Multiples/1960 to Now* (2006) and *Greater New York 2005* (2005) and is currently organizing a lithography exhibition for 2011.

We are proud to present over \$1,500 in purchase, cash, material and exhibition awards to eight artists, and we are grateful to jurors Eu and Suzuki for their assistance with selecting the award-ees. The prestigious *Philadelphia Museum of Art Purchase Award* was graciously selected by John Ittmann, Curator of Prints, Philadelphia Museum of Art and was awarded to **Victoria Burge**

(Philadelphia, PA) for her intaglio print *New Orleans*, 2010. *The Graphic Chemical and Ink Company Purchase Award* (\$300) for a hand-pulled print was awarded to **Tonia Bonnell's** (Denver, CO) etched and engraved *Illuminated 3*, 2010. *The Jacqueline L. Zemel Prize for Printmaking*, (\$500) was awarded to **Kakyong Lee** (Brooklyn, NY) for her extraordinary series of 156 etchings and a video, *Untitled-Grand Army Plaza.Brooklyn.NY.03.09*, 2009. The Print Center's *Honorary Council Award of Excellence* (\$100) was awarded to **Jiha Moon's** (Atlanta, GA) lithograph *Procession- you are on your way*, 2010.

Philadelphia's premiere digital fine art printer, Silicon - Fine Art Prints, generously awarded a gift certificate (\$250) to **Rick Wright** (Philadelphia, PA) for two inkjet prints from his *Late Petroleum Age Vessel* series. *The Renaissance Graphic Arts Award* (\$100) was granted to **Matt Phillips** (Brooklyn, NY) for *Guitar (Diamond Dogs)*, 2010.

Katie Baldwin (Philadelphia, PA) was selected by The Print Center's Jensen Bryan Curator, John Caperton, to receive the prestigious *Solo Exhibition Award* to be presented in May 2012 on the strength of her moku hanga and letterpress pieces from her *Family Tree* series; and *The Print Center Gallery Store Award* (a two-year contract for representation), was granted to **Anthony Lazorko** (Mesilla, NM) by The Print Center's Gallery Store Manager, Eli VandenBerg, for his distinctive color woodcuts.

The Print Center continues to champion a liberal and expansive approach to the understanding of printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts. The Print Center is an internationally recognized visual arts organization providing opportunities for artists to exhibit, exchange ideas and disseminate 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 Emi Eu and Sarah Suzuki for making the *85th Annual International Competition: Printmaking* an outstanding view into significant issues surrounding the printed image.

Elizabeth Spungen
Executive Director
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