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# PRESS: Artist & Machine Features the Printing Press as Artistic Practice at the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft



KENTUCKY MUSEUM
OF ART AND CRAFT
Louisville, KY

Louisville, KY - March 20, 2014 - The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft (KMAC) presents the exhibition *PRESS: Artist & Machine* on view to the public **Saturday**, **March 29**, **2014**. A KMAC Member Preview Reception will be on **Friday**, **March 28** from 6 to 8pm. Register through Eventbrite at <a href="https://press-kmac-member-preview.eventbrite.com">https://press-kmac-member-preview.eventbrite.com</a>.

Artists Featured: Kinji Akagawa, Anvil Press, Polly Apfelbaum, Baskerville Press, William Blake, Contre Coup Press, Susanna Crum, Santiago Cucullu, Steven Ford, Helen Frankenthaler, Hound Dog Press, King's Library Press, Ben Kinmont, Larkspur Press, Thaniel Ion Lee, Leslie Lyons & JB Wilson, Jaydan Moore, William Morris, Virginia Poundstone, Joanne Price, Letitia Quesenberry, Quonset Hut, David Shapiro, Stamperia del Santuccio, and John Whitesell

The exhibition *PRESS:* Artist and Machine will connect the human action of pressing and applying pressure on the one hand, to the weight and power of the machine press on the other. Through photos, books, prints, sculptures, and contemporary art installations KMAC will examine a series of labor processes that have informed and shaped our surrounding culture for centuries. Anchoring the show is an exploration of the historical use of the printing press and it's ongoing relationship to art, music, literature, and material culture. The earliest printing presses were inextricably linked to the growth of new economic and information systems. These devices helped build communities by creating cultural material that could be distributed and shared with the general public. As individualized practices developed from within printing houses, the operation of such machines began to be regarded as a craft, introducing the subsequent trades and traditions of typesetting, lithography,

bookbinding, graphic design, typography, illustration and print-making.

Our experience and interaction with the world has been altered by the dawn of the information age and the rise of a globalized digital culture. Technology has always been a mediator between art and message: and printing presses have been central to this paradigm for centuries, establishing the structures by which we share and experience culture. We are now almost entirely formed by online social media. Embodied within this paradigm shift is the decline in the need for physical product and the disappearance of hand-wrought objects that were designed to show the breadth and depth of shared, localized experiences.

KMAC examines the current state of material production in the digital age through a focus on the production of cultural objects from both the artist and the machine press. *PRESS* also looks at how contemporary artists from multiple disciplines have utilized the printing press as a medium for expression, expanding their artistic practice into the making of multiples and engaging with the commercial structures of the printing press industry.

Machine presses from the surrounding area will be invited to showcase their printed items along side the tools of their trade. KMAC will feature the work of Kentucky writers and poets who have collaborated with area presses to design, typeset, bind and press by hand, editions of their work using 19th century letterpress technology.

Image Design by MPRFCT Design

#### Special Event

## KMAC Derby Poster Contest Call for Submissions

In 1872, photographer Eadweard Muybridge was challenged with proving whether or not all of a horse's legs left the ground at the same time. By 1878, he developed an innovative photographic experiment which settled this heated debate. Using a series of trip-wired cameras, Muybridge confirmed that all four legs lift off the ground when tucked under the horse. Coincidentally, the first Kentucky Derby was in 1875. together, the Derby and Muybridge have a long history of tradition and innovation, forever changing the way we see horses in motion.

Poster designs should incorporate Muybridge's innovative thoughts and the tradition of the Kentucky Derby as inspiration. KMAC is partnering with local print shop Hound Dog Press to produce this year's poster.

Cash Prize: \$200 and two complimentary tickets to the Derby Poster Release Party (\$40 value)

Eligibility: Open to all Kentucky residents

Entry Limit: One per person Entry Deadline: April 1

### **Entry Form PDF**

A Series of Programming Events associated with this exhibit will be updated on kmacmuseum.org.

#### **EXHIBITION SPONSOR:**

Windgate Charitable Foundation

The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft gratefully acknowledges the support of our Season Sponsor Brown-Forman and annual programming support from the Fund for the Arts and The Kentucky Arts Council.







The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, supports The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endow ment for the Arts.

## About the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft

The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft is located at 715 West Main Street in downtown Louisville and provides a platform to explore materials, techniques, and artistic expression. The Museum's goal is to educate and inspire while promoting a better understanding of art and craft through exhibitions, collaborations, outreach and the permanent collection. The Museum forges alliances within Kentucky, regionally, nationally, and internationally in order to participate in a broader conversation about art and its role in society. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.kmacmuseum.org">www.kmacmuseum.org</a> or call (502) 589-0102.

**Hours:** Tues.- Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 11am-5pm. The museum is closed on Mondays. **Admission:** Adults \$8.00, Child (0-5) Free, Child (6-12) \$2.00, Child (13-17 & College with I.D.) \$4.00, Military \$5.00, Seniors \$5.00, Groups 10 (or more) \$5.00 each.

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