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an international association of artists

april 2012

# The Boston Printmakers e-newsletter

## In This Issue

- \*Letter from the President
- \*reThink INK: 25 Years at  
Mixit Print Studio
- \*Boxes of History: Archiving the  
Boston Printmakers
- \*Announcement: thINK Loan  
Extension
- \*Member News
- \*Volunteer Opportunities

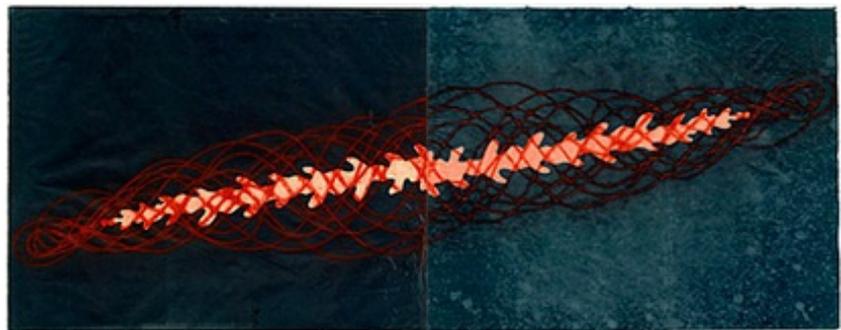


Image above by new member [Carolyn Webb](#), *In Dark Water*, 2011; woodcut and collagraph on Okawara paper; 15 1/2" x 40"

CORRECTION: the full name of the member artist whose artwork was featured at the top of the January e-newsletter is [Sylvia Solochek Walters](#)

## Letter from the President

Dear Members,

The Board is delighted to announce that the juror for the 2013 North American Print Biennial will be [Dennis Michael Jon](#), Associate Curator of Prints and Drawings at the [Minneapolis Institute of Arts](#), which is internationally recognized for its outstanding print collection. Mr. Jon's special areas of interest are: Contemporary Art; modernist graphic art; German Expressionism; French, British and American etching revival; Latin American printmaking; and modern and contemporary book arts. Take a look at the [MIA website](#) for a list of his most recent exhibitions. We are honored to have a curator of his caliber on board.

I am also very pleased to tell you that the *Palette to Plate* members' show will be hosted by the beautiful [Newport Art Museum](#) in Rhode Island. It is an outstanding opportunity not only due to this premier venue but also because the exhibit will extend from September 2014 until the end of the year! I hope you will take advantage of the length of this show by making a trip to Newport at that delightful time of year.

Anyone who was lucky enough to go to the [Southern Graphics Conference](#) in New Orleans this month probably knows how well [thINK](#), our last members' show, was received. This popular show remains available if you or someone you know would like to bring it to your school or gallery.

Join us in Boston on April! The 2012 Annual meeting will be on Sunday April 22 at my home: 1140 Washington Street, Boston, apartment 2G. The Boston Printmakers' bylaws require that members of the general membership be present at this annual meeting. We try to make it a pleasant, sociable event. I will write a letter

with details of the brunch, portfolio showings, and an RSVP early in April. For now, please mark your calendars to attend the April 22 meeting!

Lastly, the Boston Printmakers needs you: [your news, your feedback, and your involvement](#). Don't forget that we are still seeking a [new treasurer!](#) Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at any time: [liz@lizshepherd.com](mailto:liz@lizshepherd.com).

Thanks,  
Liz Shepherd  
President

## reThink INK: 25 Years at Mixit Print Studio

by Heddi Vaughan Siebel



On April 11 the [Boston Public Library](#) will open its galleries to **reThink INK: 25 Years at Mixit Print Studio** — a printmaking exhibition unprecedented in the history of the Library for its scale and scope. The exhibit, conceived and produced in collaboration with the [Mixit Print Studio](#), celebrates the twenty-five year commitment of work space, printing presses, and community that Mixit Print Studio of Somerville, MA, has provided to more than 100 local and international artists.

Curated by Karen Shafts of the Boston Public Library (BPL), **reThink INK** showcases 71 artists who have worked at Mixit Print Studio during the past 25 years. Although some of the artists may have come from diverse visual disciplines, all are bound together by their interpretation of printmaking as a vital contemporary language. Everything from the tiny hand-held miniature print to larger than life sculptural and installation work integrating printmaking with other media will be on view. **reThink INK** will be open to the public from April 11 until July 31, 2012.

Three of the Library's exhibition galleries are devoted to displaying this expansive four-part exhibition: 2

1. **25 Years: A Juried Exhibition** exhibits 44 prints selected by Karen Shafts and includes a 3-panel woodcut by [Catherine Kernan](#), a large monotype by [Joel Janowitz](#), a print by [Kim Berman](#) that survived her studio fire in South Africa, and fabric wall hangings by [Julia Talcott](#) and Karen Falkoff.
2. Freestanding, suspended from the columns, and projecting from the walls, **Installations** features 13 artists. [Ilana Manolson](#) imbeds prints into sculptural forms suspended from the Johnson Lobby wall, [Heddi Vaughan Siebel](#) (*image at right*) hangs 15' prints on which film is projected in the Changing Exhibitions Space. [Debra Olin](#), [Ted Ollier](#) and [Thaddeus Beal](#) also hang print installations to take advantage of BPL architecture. [Randy Garber](#), a partner in Mixit Print Studio, shows a deconstructed/reconstructed Merck Manual. Partners [Catherine Kernan](#) and [Jane Goldman](#) both show standing folding

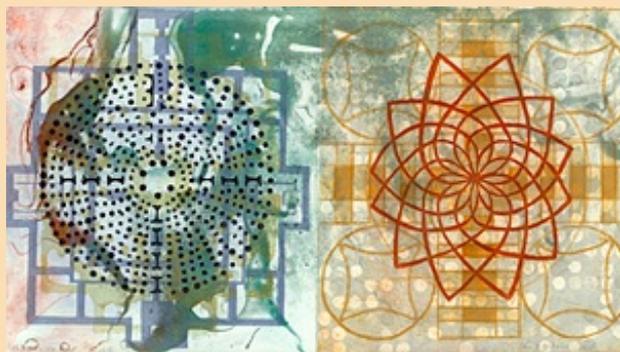


screens, collaborative projects with master woodworker Devereux Kernan.

3. **The BPL Permanent Collection**, assembled by Karen Shafts shows prints by artists working at Mixit Print Studio which had been collected for the Library over many decades under the guidance of Sinclair Hitchings, the former Keeper of Prints. The inclusion of work by artists such as [Robert Siegelman](#), [Jan Arabas](#), Phyllis Ewen, Susan Schmidt, and Mary Sherwood gives historical depth and context to the selection.
4. And lastly, the **reThink INK Portfolio** introduces 66 new prints created specifically for this exhibit and for a portfolio that will become a part of the BPL's permanent collection.

**Panel Discussion:** Questions about the relevance of the hand-made print, or how the new forms of printmaking and 3D print installations have challenged curatorial work persist for the artist in the studio or the curator in a museum: *Has digital technology changed the status of the print? How have the new forms of printmaking challenged curatorial work? What impact does the role of the master printer have on the career of the artist?* Organized by the Mixit Print Studio, the panel discussion **reThink INK : Impact and Innovation in Contemporary Printmaking** tackles these questions at the [Rabb Lecture Hall](#), Copley Square, Boston Public Library on April 24, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. Moderator Randy Garber from Mixit Print Studio has corralled together panelists [Patricia Phillips](#), Critic, Associate Provost, Rhode Island School of Design; [Andrew Raftery](#), Professor of Art, Rhode Island School of Design; and Susan Dackerman, the Carl A. Weyerhaeuser Curator of Prints, Fogg Museum of Art, Harvard University to confront these issues and answer questions from the audience.

Mixit Print Studio was established twenty-five years ago in 1987 as an open rental studio by Jane Goldman and Catherine Kernan. Randy Garber became a third partner in 2010. Housed in the former factory for Mixit Soap, in Somerville, Massachusetts, Mixit has served as a crossroads, intellectual and artistic meeting place, and spirited community for many dozens of artists in the greater Boston area. Because space, printing presses, and equipment, are shared, artists working at Mixit encounter ways of generating, and executing ideas that might not happen in their own studio—and leave with the indelible experience of having worked in a cooperative studio.



**reThink INK** gathers together artists ranging in ages from 23 to 90 years from as far away as South Africa, California, and western Massachusetts and as near by as Somerville, Cambridge, and Boston. The [66 participants in our 25th anniversary portfolio](#) constitute a microcosm of artist/printmakers in greater Boston. Bringing their work together not only makes visible the relationships between the individual artists of Mixit Studio, but also reinforces the mutually beneficial relationship between Boston's artists and its Library. Everyone who has

worked at Mixit Print Studio, whether long- or short-term, has contributed to a wealth of accumulated connections that weave this print studio into the fabric of art in Boston.

For more information be sure to visit <http://www.bpl.org/mixit>

Photos, from the top of the article:

Heddi Vaughan Siebel, 2011, *Aims, Hopes, and Endeavors*, Installation with structures, prints and film. 11' h x 45'. Stamford Museum. Photo credit: Trini Leonard

Ledeuil Press at Mixit Print Studio. Photo Credit: Robin Z. Boger

Jane Goldman, 2011 *There is No Map*, Aquatint, line and spit-bite intaglio with watercolor monotype. Photo Credit: Joe Ofria

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## Boxes of History: Archiving The Boston Printmakers

By Renee Covalucci

This Valentine's Day (Feb 14, 2012) the fully boxed archive of The Boston Printmakers was delivered to Karen Shafts, Assistant Keeper of Prints at the Boston Public Library. This was a multi-year effort that involved many student interns from the Art Institute of Boston (AIB), beginning with Candice Coleman Brothers in 2005 when David Acton began writing [60 Years of North American Prints, 1947-2007](#).



Art History major Dixon Hill completed the boxing stage and wrote a *Guide to the Records of The Boston Printmakers*. This guide is available [by clicking on this link](#). Dixon met with Cathy Durso, an AIB fine arts alumna and archivist, who provided the content and style-model for Dixon to follow. From spring 2010 through winter 2012, Dixon sorted and chronologically organized numerous items into categories that produced 9 series titles for the archive. They are: Exhibitions, Publications, Membership & Member lists, Sales, Meetings & Minutes, Correspondence, Various Records, Press Releases, and Finances. Dixon then bound and boxed the series into containers, wrote the guide, and delivered the The Boston Printmakers Archive to the Boston Public Library (pictured below).



Dixon said he enjoyed looking at items from the 1940s and learning about a volunteer organization through physical records and catalogues spanning 60+ years. This experience has made him interested in museum studies and organizational work. The executive board of The Boston Printmakers would like to thank Dixon for the presentation he made at the January meeting and for placing our boxes of history safely into the library. I personally enjoyed working with Dixon throughout this laborious task to completion.

Please let your friends and historians know that the first 60 years of The Boston Printmakers is available for discovery at the [Print Department of the Boston Public Library!](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENT: *thINK* Loan Extension

Dear Members participating in *thINK* (the 2010 traveling show),

We recently showed the Blue section of *thINK* at Southern Graphics Conference International (SGCI) at the University of New Orleans St. Claude Gallery. *thINK*'s concept of having descriptive artist statements of your technical process coupled with such beautiful prints has made this a very popular traveling show. A few folks we met at the SGCI conference were looking into having *thINK* at their galleries and campuses, and we would like to accommodate.

Since the next members show (non-traveling 2012) is being worked on now and will be exhibited in 2014 at the Newport Art Museum, we would like to keep *thINK* circulating **through 2013** (currently we have it available through 2012).

## Member NEWS

**Sadly, we didn't receive many member updates for this e-newsletter (thanks to those who did send news along). We'd really like to see this section reflect the activity of our many members, so please help us out and send your member news by May 15 for the next May/June e-newsletter to Jennifer Caine [jenniferleighcaine@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferleighcaine@gmail.com)**

***\*\*Please note that only members' news that falls within the time period of the newsletter will be included. Please submit exhibitions and other member news for June through August for our next e-newsletter. If you also send small images of your work we'll try to include them here.\*\****

***Prilla Smith Brackett*** will be in both the portfolio section and the juried section of *reThink INK*, the 25th Anniversary celebration and exhibits, honoring Mixit Print Studio, Somerville, to be held at the Boston Public Library. The exhibit runs from April 11 through July. Brackett is also a finalist, with award, for the 2012

we have it available through 2012).

Please let me, Renee Covalucci, know if you **have any difficulty keeping your print on loan** to us through 2013. I will wait to hear regrets only (email: [rcovalucci@yahoo.com](mailto:rcovalucci@yahoo.com)). I will assume no notice of difficulty with the extension means okay.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Assistant Treasurer - [Contact Ky Ober](#)

The Boston Printmakers needs someone to assist the treasurer with the organization's bookkeeping. Duties would include working with the treasurer to prepare monthly financial reports, preparing for the annual audit, receipt and payment processing. Knowledge of Quickbooks (or a willingness to learn) is essential. It is hoped that the assistant treasurer would take over for the treasurer when she steps down as Treasurer. This is a 2 year commitment.

### Newsletter assistants - [Contact Nancy Diessner](#)

The Boston Printmakers new e-newsletter is looking for members to write or assemble articles for upcoming issues. For more information or to send an idea, please email Nancy Diessner @ [nwdiessner@gmail.com](mailto:nwdiessner@gmail.com)

### Website assistant – [Contact Christiane Corcelle](#)

We are redesigning the website and we are looking for someone who can help. We have a new template and now we need to fill out all the pages with text and images. We are looking for someone who knows Dreamweaver and a bit of HTML. For more information please contact Christiane Corcelle @ [ccorcelle@mail.com](mailto:ccorcelle@mail.com)

Massachusetts Cultural Council Painting Fellowships.

**Ann Chernow** will be showing the following work in these exhibitions:

March/April 2012: Rendezvous in "The Annual 2012" at the National Academy Museum, 1083 Fifth Avenue, NYC; March/April 2012: Annie's Soda Fountain, "Drawings and Prints," the Silvermine Guild Arts Center, New Canaan, CT; March 2012: in Manny Kirchheimer's documentary film Art is ... the Permanent Revolution, Ann Chernow is the Lithographer in this film about Art and War as seen through the work of 3 printmakers; March/April 2012, "New Prints" at Galerie-Librairie Matarasso, 3 rue Longchamps, Nice France.

**Suzanne Hodes** This interview has just been edited and is available 2012 online featuring my drawings, paintings and prints:

<http://as16online.blogspot.com/2011/12/featured-artist-suzanne-hodes.html>

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