

In 1993 when I became curator of the Janet Turner Print Collection, I felt that we needed to establish a broader profile as well as experience contemporary changes in printmaking as an art form. With the assistance of the late Dr. Stan Felver, Patricia Roux and Michael Halldorson, the first printmaking competition and exhibition was presented in 1995. Our first juror was Marion Epting, CSU, Chico Department of Art and Art history professor emeritus.

Since then, every two years, we enjoy the opportunity to see what printmakers feel relevant in content, intent, technique and aesthetic. This national survey has also resulted in the addition to the Janet Turner Print Collection by purchase print awards works by outstanding artists. Janet herself, as a collector, was always looking forward to what is new, engaging and relevant, so these additions serve to further her collection philosophy.

Janet's philosophy, which I embrace, was to have the opportunity to learn, see and be affected by the actual work of art. As we go to press we do not know what we will see, but we do know by looking at all the entries, there will be very interesting and provocative prints that will inform us what today's printmakers feel important to say and how they employ printmaking techniques to do so.

I would like to thank the Turner BOD, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, the CSU, Chico University and the Department of Art and Art History for their continued support for this 9th opportunity to enrich our regional community with national art.

For the 9th exhibition a focus committee comprised of Turner BOD members curators and printmakers was formed to re-envision the direction for this exhibition. 88 artists submitted 129 individual works for Franklin Sirmans, the Terri and Michael Smooke Curator and Department Head of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art. He will choose from submitted prints for exhibition in both the Janet Turner Print Museum gallery and the Department of Art and Art History's University Art Gallery. By having this partnership we can increase the number of works to be exhibited and maximize the exposure of printmaking to our local and regional community.

We agreed to look for the emerging artists, out of their academic career, and looking to push the boundaries of traditional printmaking. Printmakers from California, Maryland, Washington, Montana, West Virginia, Colorado, Ohio, Arizona, Florida, South Carolina, Oregon, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Maine and Massachusetts responded. Their submitted work encompasses: screen print on Mylar, screen print with ash and charcoal, letterpress with laser cuts, relief/litho on fabric with sewing, etching on tracing paper with string and monoprint with dry point to name a few innovative combinations of technique. It is obvious many printmakers across the nation are exploring not only the traditional methods, but also how other technologies can add to their personal artistic expression. We were gladdened that many artists are expanding the range of printmaking in terms of media as well as

appreciating those artists that still find new ways to make the singular paper surface reflect 21st century artistic concerns.

This exhibition, as it has always been, is an opportunity for a fresh perspective on printmaking. Chico is geographically somewhat isolated from major metropolitan centers so this competition exhibition becomes a strong core for the CSU, Chico art students but also the region to experience directly through the art itself what printmakers find important to communicate. This exhibition is the new history of printmaking and how its artists are part of the modern dialong.

Catherine Sullivan, Curator
Janet Turner Print Museum
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