

CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF PRINTMAKERS Relevant Ink



Melissa West, Prayer Flags in Action, Relief Prints on Fabric.

from the studio of CSP President Jami Taback

Dear Printmakers Extraordinaire,

In California and throughout the world we are facing hard challenges. CSP has members experiencing losses due to violent weather patterns and the virus. Many CSP members have been taking steps to transfer our energies to an online presence, are engaging in social justice initiatives through artmaking and donations, and are seeking ways to make a difference across race and gender through the arts.

Many of us are participating in fundraisers like *Printmakers Against Racism* and individual programs like **Stacy Frank's** print sales to benefit animals displaced by fire, **Cathy DeForest's Vision Quilt**, a nonprofit focused on addressing gun violence sign action in the San Geronimo Valley where the artists painted signs with anti-racism/anti-sexist messages and held them up to passing motorists; and CSP's own new initiative *Brief Histories of California Printmakers*, which means to bring attention to previously unrecognized Black, Indigenous, People of Color and female identified printmakers. Artists and community members far and wide are contributing to GoFundMe campaigns to assist creatives like CSP member **Felicia Rice** who lost home and studio in the August wildfires.

Our internationally recognized journal, *The California Printmaker*, is about to reveal the artists chosen for the next issue, and will include space to advertise your business. For members who are teachers, *Educational Resources*, initiated by **Robynn Smith** is available for artists to share their teaching videos and online resources to help facilitate a more in-depth learning experience during this time of online and hybrid education. Several print exhibitions are coming up in 2021 including two exhibition opportunities for *Extraction: Art on the edge of the abyss a global response from artists*. We also have a new book discussion group with **Rhiannon Alpers!**

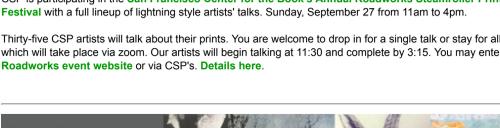
Congratulations to members who have work in the *DeYoung Open*. How exciting for the print community to see such a representation of prints in this unique and momentous exhibition. Please let us know who you are—we are busting with pride!

Plans are in the works for an in-person closing reception in December for our *106th Annual Exhibition* in the hopes we can gather together safely. *San Francisco Center for the Book's 17th Annual Roadworks Steamroller Printing Festival* is on September 27th and we are going live as 35 members talk about their work.

I would love to hear from you about programs and projects you are involved in. Please post your news on our listserv or send an email to me so that I can be more informed. Our newsletter is here to serve you and let you know how valuable you are to us as artists living and working in today's world.

Please take care. Sending you and your loved ones prayers for a safe and more caring world.

~Jami Taback



CSP is participating in the **San Francisco Center for the Book's Annual Roadworks Steamroller Printing Festival** with a full lineup of lightning style artists' talks. Sunday, September 27 from 11am to 4pm.

Thirty-five CSP artists will talk about their prints. You are welcome to drop in for a single talk or stay for all the talks which will take place via zoom. Our artists will begin talking at 11:30 and complete by 3:15. You may enter via the **Roadworks event website** or via CSP's **Details here**.



106th Annual Exhibition

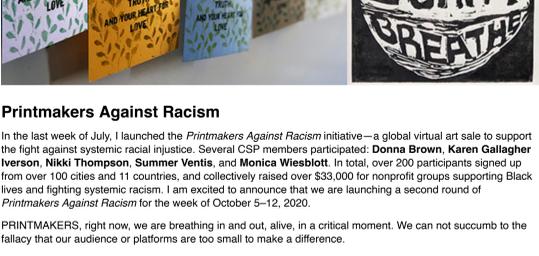
November 14--December 5, 2020
Closing Reception: December 5, 11am-1pm
Application Deadline: October 17

Our annual exhibition has new dates! We hope to be able to gather together to celebrate our community of printmakers.

We have reopened the work submission application for those who would like to submit work for this new time frame and for those who would like to change the artwork they previously submitted. This exhibition was originally scheduled last spring. Due to Covid-19, we needed to reschedule. If you wish to change your artwork, you will need to resubmit. If you are happy keeping it the same, you do not need to do anything.

Please note that Piedmont Center for the Arts is in the process of determining if this exhibition will be open to the public or if it will be hung in the space and remain an online experience using photography and video. We are hopeful that there will be a safe, socially distanced closing reception on the de-install date: December 5. Information will follow via the listserv and the website.

[Link to change your submission.](#)



Printmakers Against Racism

In the last week of July, I launched the *Printmakers Against Racism* initiative—a global virtual art sale to support the fight against systemic racial injustice. Several CSP members participated: **Donna Brown, Karen Gallagher Iverson, Nikki Thompson, Summer Ventis, and Monica Wiesblott**. In total, over 200 participants signed up from over 100 cities and 11 countries, and collectively raised over \$33,000 for nonprofit groups supporting Black lives and fighting systemic racism. I am excited to announce that we are launching a second round of *Printmakers Against Racism* for the week of October 5–12, 2020.

PRINTMAKERS, right now, we are breathing in and out, alive, in a critical moment. We can not succumb to the fallacy that our audience or platforms are too small to make a difference.

I invite you to pause for a moment and reflect upon the power contained within your creative spirit, your tools, your hands, your voice. This is a call to action to exercise our power as artists in community, to create and share work that invites others to open their eyes and fight alongside us all the way to the ballot box and beyond! Let us use our creative abilities to fight for justice and equality and to lift each other up!

The situation is dire, but it is not hopeless. In his final essay written just before he died, John Lewis said he was inspired by the millions of people continuing to demand respect for human dignity. He also reminds us that we are complicit when we tolerate injustice. It is my hope that we as a printmaking community have the grace and courage to continue in this effort.

There are several ways to participate in October. Printmakers can sign up to host a virtual art sale, donating proceeds to the organizations of their choice. For those who can not host an art sale, there are other ways to be involved in October, such as planning an anti-racism themed reflection and art project with students or community members; or creating anti-racism themed posters, postcards, images in support of the effort. It is important to keep creating new symbols, images, and activities as opportunities to normalize anti-racism, call attention to these efforts, and engage the community in this time. I hope you will join us in October.

-- Desiree Aspiras, [Printmakers Against Racism](#)

Artwork Images: Monica Wiesblott (left), Donna Brown (right).

Educators' Resource Sharing

CSP expresses great admiration for all of our member educators who are transforming curriculum to meet the challenges of the Covid pandemic. We want to help.

We have established a shared resource of available online projects, documents and video links for our CSP member educators.

These resources are housed in a shareable Google Doc titled *Educators' Resources*. Interested members can add resources to the document and access it as needed.

If you are currently teaching, a former educator, or an aspiring educator, this is for you!

We are specifically looking to develop a list of persons who are available as **virtual visiting artists** to give artist's talks, studio visits and print critiques.

To participate in this special CSP community email: **Robynn Smith**
email: education@caprintmakers.org

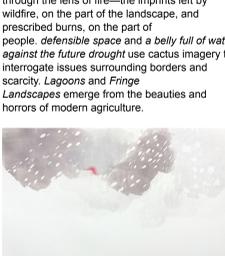


CSP Reads

The CSP Book Group is currently reading *The Secret Lives of Color* by Kassia St. Clair.

The group meets on the third Wednesday evening of every month via zoom. Members who would like to join this discussion group should **email** to join the book discussion groups' listserv, which is how this group's activities are communicated.

For October we are reading: Orange, Dutch Orange, Blue, and Cobalt.



Meet your Board Members Summer Ventis Historian

Hello, Printmakers! I'm Summer Ventis. I have been a member of CSP since 2019 and just joined the board as Historian this summer. I love being a part of this great community of printmakers. I really appreciate the opportunities CSP creates for its members to build community and to see each other's work and I'm so excited to get to help create those opportunities as a member of the CSP board.

I have a BA in Art from Grinnell College and an MFA in Printmaking from the University of Colorado Boulder. In addition to my CSP membership, I am a member of Sacramento-based Axis Gallery and of the Colorado-based collectives Hyperlink and ARTNAUTS. I am Assistant Professor of Printmaking at California State University Sacramento.



My recent work engages the reciprocal relationship between internal and external landscapes, between people and our environments, in the landscapes of the Western and Midwestern United States. *Particulate Matter Index* and *smokescreens* explore this relationship through the lens of fire—the imprints left by wildfire, on the part of the landscape, and prescribed burns, on the part of people. *defensible space* and *a belly full of water* interrogate issues surrounding borders and scarcity. *Lagoons* and *Fringe Landscapes* emerge from the beauties and horrors of modern agriculture.

Across these bodies of work, the tent form is emblematic of the tenacious nature of our relationship to our surroundings, an object that allows us to connect with the landscape, to spend time in it, by separating and protecting us from it.

You can see some of my most recent work this October in my solo exhibition, *There is still a ground. There is still a sky.* at **Axis Gallery**.

Artwork images: Summer Ventis; Wilderness Reflections. Photo: Nick Shepard; Smokescreens.

SOCIAL MEDIA

[CSP on Facebook](#)
www.facebook.com/caprintmakers

[CSP on Instagram](#)
[instagram.com/CaliforniaSocietyOfPrintmakers](https://www.instagram.com/CaliforniaSocietyOfPrintmakers)

Add **#CaliforniaSocietyOfPrintmakers** to your own post captions for opportunities to have your artwork shared through the CSP account!



Call for Social Justice Vision Quilt Panels!

In 2015, CSP member, **Cathy DeForest**, started *Vision Quilt*, a national nonprofit committed to empowering communities to create solutions to gun violence through the power of art and inclusive dialogue.

People ages 3–96 have made *Vision Quilt* panels. *Vision Quilt* has worked in the Oakland schools and community for the past four years. Active *Vision Quilt* volunteers are exploring ways to duplicate panels, weather proofing them, hanging them around Lake Merritt, and making them into yard signs! The most recent panels were created by the **SF Poster Syndicate**.

If you wish to donate a panel to the project it will be exhibited widely and become part of the website's Virtual Quilt. Each panel needs to be printed on fabric or canvas, not paper.

Here is a **short video** Cathy created for artists in Kansas City during the pandemic sheltering-in-place

For more information, contact **Cathy DeForest**.

Artwork Image: Joanna Ruckman and Adan Guerrero Gallegos.

Call for Proposals Brief Histories of California Printmakers

As an effort to remedy racial and gender inequity in the art world at large and more specifically in our local printmaking community, CSP is partnering with college level Art History and Printmaking faculty to publish essays on California's diverse printmaking history. The initial focus will be on California printmakers who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and/or female identified.

The primary impetus of this CSP initiative is to bring attention to individuals and collectives who are under-represented in the print world because of their racial, ethnic and/or gender identities, i.e. people who have been overlooked or dismissed because of discrimination. The secondary impetus is to develop academically sound materials on these artists so that their legacies will be further researched and (hopefully) broadly known.

Partner benefits include a new publishing platform and professional research experience for art history and printmaking students and faculty, and institutional recognition.

CSP benefits include viable action towards racial and gender parity, and an extension of CSP's educational mission.

Community benefits include increased awareness of California's rich and diverse printmakers and their histories.

CSP affiliation is not required of authors or subjects.
Full details are here.

Residency Profile from 2016 Deborah Sibony @ The W.O.R.K.S.

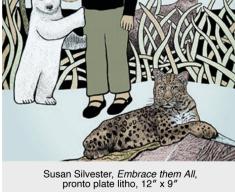


The CSP Residency provided a valuable opportunity to work with a master printer, experiment with new techniques and evolve a body of work.

I have worked with a variety of printmaking processes however, had never tried screen printing. I currently work primarily with monotypes combined with a mix of other mediums. My process involves working with photographs which I take in urban and industrial landscapes. In particular, transitional landscapes which are in constant flux of construction and deconstruction and appear as quickly as they disappear.

What appealed to me about working with **Thomas Wojak (The W.O.R.K.S.)** was the way in which he uses screen printing with his photographs as a basis for the imagery, building the composition in a thoughtful, experimental and intuitive way. This is similar to the way in which I wanted to work in this residency.

Thomas has a wealth of experience working with this process. He explained all the steps in the screen printing process. My intention was to use my photos to create a composite abstracted image in Photoshop that could then be used as a screen to print from. The screens would provide the composition and structure for the print.



Photos courtesy of: Deborah Sibony.

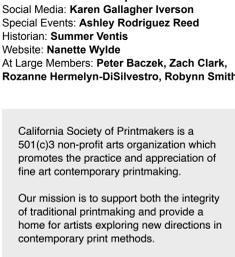
CSP Membership Application Winter Portfolio Review

Membership in the CSP is open to artists from anywhere in the world who create hand-pulled prints. This includes artists who use traditional printmaking techniques, such as etching, lithography, relief printing, and silk screen. It also includes artists who make hybrid prints, monotypes, and artist books, so long as some hand printmaking is involved. Artists who use solely photographic or digital methods are not eligible for artist membership.

Artist Members are juried into the organization by a review committee of current and past members of the CSP Board.

Deadline: December 1, 2020.

For more information and to Apply: **CSP Submittable page.**



Advertise In The California Printmaker

Advertising is now available in *The California Printmaker*, CSP's international journal. Reasonable rates for a wide, print interested audience. Advertising information is **here**.

Accelerated Aging

A process used to estimate the permanence of paper or other substrate. Depending on a paper's chemical composition, it can have varying levels of longevity. Since normal aging is not practical, procedures have been developed to simulate the aging process in a much shorter period of time. The accelerated aging uses either the "dry method," in which a paper sample is aged in a 105°C oven for a set period of time, and examined for reduced strength, brittleness, reduced tearing resistance, folding endurance, etc., or the "moist method," which ages the paper at 90°C at 25% relative humidity. The fibers of cellulose that make up a paper deteriorate more rapidly in the presence of moisture, so it is believed that the moist method more closely approximates the natural aging of a paper. printwiki.org

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California Society of Printmakers is a 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization which promotes the practice and appreciation of fine art contemporary printmaking.

Our mission is to support both the integrity of traditional printmaking and provide a home for artists exploring new directions in contemporary print methods.

Your membership dues and financial contributions are tax deductible within the rules of the IRS.

This CSP e-newsletter was edited by Nanette Wyldie.



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