Executive Director's Report

It is a great pleasure to report on a wonderful year of excellent and exciting programs and accomplishments for The Print Center. In addition to presenting a full schedule of exhibitions and educational programs, we were busily engaged in growing the reputation and profile of The Print Center while participating in our community. I am especially pleased by the attention we have received from national level foundations. We were awarded a large grant from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts for two years of general program support, as well as support from the International Fine Print Dealers Association for our exhibition Pulling From History: The Old Masters and from the Japan Foundation for Nakazora: space between sky and earth: Masao Yamamoto. These grants not only provide financial awards, but also validate the relevance and significance of the quality of the work we present. We look forward to offering more high quality and exciting programs.

Masao Yamamoto, Untitled #955, Gelatin silver print with mixed media

Our staff played a vital role in the cultural life of our community this year. I had the opportunity to serve as a peer reviewer for the Philadelphia Cultural Fund as well as sit on the Visual Arts Panel for the New Jersey State Arts Council. Curator John Caperton participated in a panel entitled From Shower Stalls to Gallery Walls and Back: A Screenprinting Overview in Chicago at the Southern Graphics Council conference and organized a panel for the Free Library of Philadelphia's Print and Picture Collection in conjunction with their exhibition Intaglio a Go-Go: Etching Moves Forward. John undertook curatorial research trips to Mexico City and Los Angeles with the support of the Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative, and devotedly worked as a key member of Philagrafi ka 2010: The Graphic Unconscious curatorial team. He also shared his expertise with students and faculty at The University of the Arts serving as a critic for both the Print Department and for the senior photography students. Assistant Director Ashley Peel Pinkham shared the benefit of her experience as a panel member for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Program, served as an advisor to the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance for their Pro Calendar and sat on the curatorial committee for Lincoln200. Ashley also worked with local students, offering critiques to juniors at Moore College of Art & Design and to The University of the Arts’ Media Arts seniors. John, Ashley and I made a research trip to Pittsburgh, where we attended the Society of Photographic Education Conference at Carnegie Mellon, toured the Carnegie International and visited many colleagues and exhibition venues. Gallery Store Manager Eli VandenBerg shared his insight as a member of the exhibitions committee at the William Way GLBT Community Center and celebrated his own artwork with a solo exhibition in their galleries.

We are pleased to welcome new members to our Board of Governors: Jerry Bronstein, Projects Director, IMC Construction, joined us through his work with the Business on Board program of the Arts & Business Council. Jerry has made an outstanding contribution to the Board with his enthusiasm for The Print Center by combining his interests in contemporary art and expertise in facilities and architecture. Kristi Poling, attorney with Dilworth Paxson, joined us upon her return to Philadelphia after spending a few years out of the city. Her nonprofit experiences with Spiral Q, the Greater Philadelphia Tourism and Marketing Commission and Philagrafi ka, along with her love of prints and legal knowledge make her a wonderful addition to our Board. Last fall, ex-officio member Katherine Ware gave up that role when she left the Philadelphia Museum of Art to take a post at the New Mexico Museum of Art. Kate graciously accepted our invitation to remain on the Board, and Shelley Langdale, Associate Curator of Prints and Drawings, Philadelphia Museum of Art, was appointed to the ex-officio seat. In addition, Shelley is giving her expertise and enthusiasm as chair of the Program Committee.

We celebrate the incredible history of our Board of Governors by naming those who have given dedicated and noteworthy service to our Honorary Council. We greatly value the commitments and incredible service these individuals have made to The Print Center, and were pleased to appoint Ron Rumford and Suzanne Schiller to the Honorary Council this year.

Finally, we are pleased to have unveiled our new email announcement system – which allows us to reduce our environmental impact without losing the ability to communicate our visual information. We are indebted to the Arts & Business Council’s Technology Connectors Program for finding us our wonderful volunteer John Rosandich who made this possible. Make sure to take a careful look at your email to see the new format!

– Liz Spungen

Mission Statement

The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms.
Special Events

The Print Center hosted a number of very enjoyable and successful special events highlighting our exhibition program and mission. We thank everyone who joined us!

Guests talk with visiting artist Masao Yamamoto at the home of Diane Burko and Richard Ryan

In September 2008 we were pleased and privileged to host an intimate evening with our distinguished visiting artist from Japan, Masao Yamamoto. Graciously hosted at the spectacular home of Diane Burko and Richard Ryan, those whom attended were treated to the rare opportunity to partake in informal conversation with this renowned photographer, as well as enjoy a hands-on look at many of his inspired works. This evening was co-sponsored by the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia, who shared complete coverage of the evening with their constituents through a thoughtfully written report. www.jasgp.org/content/view/692/179/

The Print Center Annual Auction: EXPOSED in December 2008 was once again the place to be for delicious food and drink, exceptional artworks and great fun. Patrons of the Champagne Preview had a photo-op on the red carpet joined by Cher (played by photographer Justyna Badach) and snapped by paparazzo Preston Bound (alter ego of David Graham). With the support of our generous patrons and eighty donating artists the event raised more than $25,000 for The Print Center!

In May 2009 our annual Patron Party was generously hosted by Avi Eden. The evening began with a champagne tour of The Print Center’s exhibition Pulling from History: The Old Masters led by exhibiting artist Sarah McEneaney and Curator John Caperton. A delightful reception followed at Eden’s spectacular, art-filled home where we unveiled the beautiful screenprint by McEneaney commissioned for this event: West Texas Night, 2009.

Also in May, over 200 people joined us for Open Book, presented in conjunction with our ongoing series Multiple Conversations: An Ongoing Series on Collecting. It offered artists the opportunity to introduce new publications and for our visitors to collect books, meet the artists and have them personally inscribed. Participants included: Andrea Baldeck, Katie Baldwin, Susan Bank, Ditta Baron Hoeber, Paul Cava, Common Press, Crown Point Press, Kip Deeds, Mandy Dunn, Angela Earley, Linn Edwards, Gallery 339, David Graham, Henry Horenstein, Bill McRight, Megawords, D.W. Mellor, Andrea Modica, Nick Paparone, Gregory Pizzoli, Mark Price, Stuart Rome, Laurence Salzmann, Space 1026, Emily Steinberg, Zoe Strauss, Blaise Tobia and Andrew Jeffrey Wright. Everyone enjoyed the day so much that we will make this a regular addition to our schedule of events.

In June 2009, we hosted a special evening for all those who “love art and need a laugh” featuring artist Andrew Jeffrey Wright in conjunction with his exhibition Movement I, Movement II and a Sculpture. In addition to performing a hilarious live stand-up comedy performance which he has been touring around the country, he presented his new comedy DVD Art Jokes. 2009 Pew Fellow in Media Arts Marc Brodzik made a film of Andrew Jeffrey Wright and his installation at The Print Center. www.woodshopfilms.com/index.php/art

Cher, played by photographer Justyna Badach, poses for the paparazzo with Board Member Aaron Goldblatt.
Andrew Jeffrey Wright performing Art Jokes

Exhibitions & Programs
July 2008–June 2009

Exhibitions

May 31–August 2, 2008
The Triumph of Democracy: Inside the Studio:
Benjamin Edwards
82nd Annual International Competition: Photography
Juried by Joel Smith, Curator of Photography, Princeton University Art Museum

September 10–November 26, 2008
Nakazora: space between sky and earth: Masao Yamamoto
Yamamoto traveled from Japan to create this site specific installation specifically for The Print Center
Foreclosed
Artists: Alejandra Laviada, Gillian Pears, Hirsch Perlman, Tommy Reynolds, Melanie Schiff and Ryan Widger

December 11, 2008–February 14, 2009
Domesticated: Amy Stein
The Preponderance of Evidence: Shelley Thorstensen
SHOP: Art, Commerce and the Printed Image:
Exhibition of specially created artist projects that explore the ties between commerce and the printed image
Artists: Edna Andrade, Katie Baldwin & Caitlin Perkins, Charles Burns, Candy Depew, Chris Duncan, Angela Earley, Eleanor Grosch, Nancy Lewis, Virgil Marti, Dennis McNutt, Bill McRight, James Mills, Lauren Rossi, Shelley Spector, Tamara Waite-Santibanez and Andrew Jeffrey Wright

February 26 - May 16, 2009
Pulling from History: The Old Masters
A group exhibition which brought together the work of contemporary artists whose work is influenced by old master prints.
Artists: Jennifer Bornstein, Ernesto Caivano, David Fertig, Sarah McEneaney, Norm Paris, Andrew Raftery, Kiki Smith and Anton Würth
Disorder: Susan White

May 30 - August 1, 2009
83rd Annual International Competition: Printmaking
Juried by Shelly Bancroft and Peter Nesbett, Publishers of Art on Paper magazine and Founders of Triple Candie
Movement I, Movement II and a Sculpture: Andrew Jeffery Wright

Offsite Exhibitions

August 2008–August 2009
Artists-in-Schools Program banners exhibited at Lincoln Financial Field ticket office; work by Gallery Store artists
Susan Abrams, Angela Earley, Amze Emmons and Janet Towbin exhibited in the Lincoln Financial Field Club Lounge

September–October 2008
82nd Annual International Competition: Photography
at the Long Beach Island Foundation for the Arts & Sciences, Loveladies, NJ

October–November 2008
The Print Center had a booth at the prestigious Editions|Artists’ Book (E|AB) Fair during New York Print Week along with 63 contemporary art dealers and publishers from 6 countries.

June 2009
Artists-in-Schools Program projects from Martin Luther King, Mastery Charter School, Northeast, Olney, Parkway High School for Peace, South Philadelphia and University City High Schools exhibited at the Rotunda in West Philadelphia.

Jennifer Bornstein
Buster Keaton, 2004
Copperplate etching
From Pulling From History: The Old Masters
The Print Center Gallery Store Talks
The Print Center Gallery Store artists to speak about their approaches, techniques, subject matter and collecting in an informal environment were given by:

- Susan Abrams and Stephen Perloff
- Cynthia Back
- Susan Arthur Whitson
- Jeannie Pearce
- Michael Shannon, Collector and Interior Designer in conjunction with Multiple Conversations: An Ongoing Series on Print Collecting

The Contemporaries: Young Friends of The Print Center
TALK SHOP—an all access pass to the eclectic and exciting show SHOP: Art, Commerce and the Printed Image, an exhibition which brought together dozens of artist-created works that resemble commercial products—ranging from comics to ‘zines, from bags to black light posters. Those who came enjoyed mingling with the artists while sipping on holiday inspired cocktails.

Open Portfolio 2008
In October 2008, The Print Center along with Philagrafika, InLiquid.com and the Philadelphia Center for the Book hosted an Open Portfolio event for its members as part of Philadelphia Open Studio Tours (POST).

Center City District Gallery Night
Over 250 visitors enjoyed complimentary hors d’oeurves and cocktails and were treated to gallery talks by exhibiting artists Gillian Pears, Tommy Reynolds and Ryan Widger.

Current & Upcoming Programs
Fall 2009–Spring 2010

Exhibitions
September 10–November 21, 2009
There’s No Place Like Here: Nadine Rovner

January 29–April 11, 2010
Philagrafika 2010: The Graphic Unconscious
The Print Center is one of the five core sites for the curated exhibition at the heart of the international festival celebrating Philadelphia’s rich printmaking heritage. Focused on themes of Dissemination and Access, the artists exhibited will include Eric Avery, Erick Beltrán, Bitterkomix, Eloisa Carotonera, Sue Coe, Julius Deutschbauer, Dexter Sinister, Dispatch, Drive By Press, Art Hazelwood, Jenny Schmid, Self-Help Graphics & Art, Space 1026 and Temporary Services

May 1–July 24, 2010
44th Annual International Competition: Photography
Juror: Ingrid Schaffner, Senior Curator, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia
Tracings / Transfers / Copies / Forgeries: Bill Walton
Special Events

Between the Sheets: The Print Center Annual Auction, December 5. The place to be for delicious food and drink, exceptional artworks and great fun. Patrons of the Champagne Preview enjoyed decadent chocolate created exclusively for The Print Center by Virgil Marti who teamed up with Philadelphia’s premiere chocolatiers Sara and Tom Block of Naked Chocolate Café. The auction includes work by many renowned local and international artists including Dotty Attie, Andrea M. Baldeck, Paul Cava, Carl Fudge, David Graham, Daniel Heyman, Henry Horenstein, Jane Irish, Tristin Lowe, D.W. Mellor, Andrea Modica and Doug & Mike Starn.

Spring 2010

Special Events will focus on our exhibition Philagrafika 2010: The Graphic Unconscious and will include a ‘zine event with Space 1026 and artist lectures by Eric Avery, Erick Beltrán and Temporary Services. We will also present the inaugural lecture in The Printed Image series which will be a biannual event featuring nationally recognized speakers; gallery talks by 84th International Competition: Photography juror Ingrid Schaffner and exhibiting artist Bill Walton; a special event in conjunction with the Society for Photographic Education conference and the second annual Open Book event.

We will host an interactive, public printing event with exhibiting collective Drive By Press—a completely mobile printmaking studio built to promote the growth and democratization of art through printmaking. Drive By Press is Joseph Velasquez, Gregory Naney and Drew Iwaniw. Created as a mobile endeavor to educate and share with students across the United States the art of contemporary printmaking, Drive By Press has visited well over 100 colleges and universities giving lectures and hands-on demonstrations, March 24, 2010.

Artists-in-Schools Program

Artists-in-Schools Program (AISP) offers hands-on learning and self-exploration to inner-city high school students in Philadelphia’s public schools, encouraging them to look beyond the restrictions and limitations of their neighborhoods, to develop an understanding of and appreciation for the visual arts, and to express their own creativity. The program provides artist-educators, course materials and field trips to schools selected on the basis of need which are then served for two years. AISP has a documented record of success and, in 2003, was recognized by the National Art Education Association as a national model for contemporary public arts education. In the 2008–2009 school year, we inaugurated a short format program designed to supplement our existing two-semester program, and served approximately 500 students at Martin Luther King, Mastery Charter School, Northeast, Olney, Parkway High School for Peace, South Philadelphia and University City High Schools.

The Print Center Series

Lectures & Events

Gallery talk by Nadine Rovner and John Caperton, September 2009.
Film Screening with Secret Cinema: Trick Baby with a special introduction by Irv Slifkin author of Filmadelphia: A Celebration of a City’s Movies, October 15.

Gallery Store Talks

Robert Asman, October 31
Matt Neff, November 14
The DIY Quick and Dirty PRINTESTING SWAP organized by Amze Emmons with Printesting.org, March 20
Outloud: Artist Books Performed organized by Katie Baldwin and Gregory Pizzoli, April 3

Critique & Conversation

Becky Kerlin, Owner, Gallery Joe, October 14
Carina Evangelista, Gretchen Hupfel Curator of Contemporary Art, Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, November 18
Edith Newhall, Art writer, The Philadelphia Inquirer, December 16
Financial Report

We thank all of our many supporters—the artists and other individual donors, our Board of Governors, Honorary Council, Luminaries and Leadership Circle and the many foundations and corporations who all contribute so generously. It is this support that allows The Print Center to continue to so ably fulfill its mission.

The Print Center is a federal tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization and is registered as a charitable organization with the Pennsylvania Department of State’s Bureau of Charitable Organizations.

The Print Center’s 2008–2009 audit is available upon request.

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as of September 2009

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The Print Center’s 2008–2009 audit is available upon request.
Installation view of *disorder*: Susan White

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Installation view of Movement I, Movement II and a Sculpture: Andrew Jeffrey Wright