

Delta Sources and Resources

The Delta National Small Prints Exhibition (DNSPE)

Bradbury Art Museum (BAM)

201 Olympic Drive

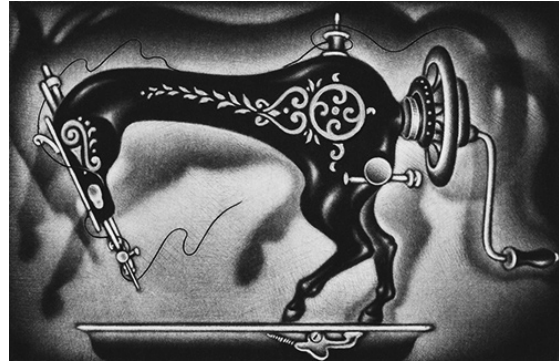
Arkansas State University, Main Campus

Jonesboro, Arkansas

by Garry Holstein and Haley Vogel

Bradbury Art Museum (BAM) is excited to announce the 26th year of the *Delta National Small Prints Exhibition (DNSPE)*. Founded in 1996 by Evan Lindquist, with help from Jan Troutt, Dr. Ruth Hawkins, Dr. Russ Shain, Dr. Charlott Jones, Curtis Steele, Dr. William Allen, Bill Rowe, and John Salvest, the *Delta National Small Prints Exhibition* is an annual juried print exhibition that features prominent contemporary printmakers from around the world. *DNSPE* has received great acclaim as it has grown to be one of the country's foremost annual competitions for prints. Each year, a nationally known expert in the field of printmaking is invited to select the works of art for that exhibition and determine which works will receive awards, including purchase prizes.

The original concept of *DNSPE* was developed around a dream to make Jonesboro, Arkansas an epicenter for art and culture. Evan Lindquist spent four years planning the inaugural exhibition that was shown for the first time in the Fine Arts Gallery on the campus of Arkansas State University. There were and still are several reputable print exhibitions throughout the country, and Evan wanted this to be one of the best. In 2001, the *Delta National Small Prints Exhibition* found a new and permanent home at



Les Christensen Purchase Award. Permanent Collection, Arkansas State University. Underwritten by Sharon & Evan Lindquist, Jonesboro.

Carol Wax

Sewing Wild Oats, 2016

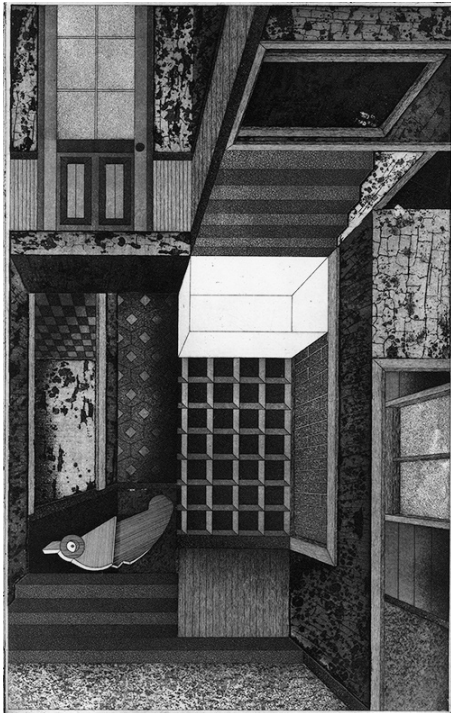
mezzotint, burin engraving and hand coloring

4 x 6 in.

Bradbury Art Gallery (now Bradbury Art Museum), located in the Fowler Center at Arkansas State University.

DNSPE founder Evan Lindquist is an emeritus professor from Arkansas State University Department of Art and a profoundly respected contemporary printmaker. In 2013, he was awarded the honorific title of Arkansas Artist Laureate from Governor Mike Beebe and is the first artist to be awarded this title for the State of Arkansas. Born in 1936, Evan Lindquist grew up in Solomon, Kansas; Odessa, Missouri; and Emporia, Kansas. He earned his bachelor's degree in art and biology at Emporia State University in 1958, and his Master of Fine Arts in Printmaking in 1963 at the University of Iowa. From 1963 to 2003, Evan taught printmaking and drawing as a Professor of Art at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He currently works in his private studio in Jonesboro.

Evan's extensive career as an artist has cul-



Drs. Phyllis & Warren Skaug Purchase Award. Permanent Collection, Arkansas State University. Underwritten by Drs. Phyllis & Warren Skaug, Jonesboro

Brandon Williams
Disorientated Disaster, 2016
etching
14 x 9 in.

minated in over 300 competitive exhibitions, more than 60 solo exhibitions, and more than 80 prizes and awards. His work can be viewed in major public collections such as the Art Institute of Chicago, Boston Museum of Fine arts, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, and numerous other collections stretching all the way to Italy, Ireland, and Spain. Bradbury Art Museum is also lucky enough to house a significant Lindquist collection. He is known most notably for his expert engraving technique. His skills developed over time under the instruction of many great teachers and old master-printmaking processes, eventually becoming a master him-

self.

Evan's dedication to his art form has inspired many students and admirers. *DNSPE* continues this legacy. The *Delta National Small Prints Exhibition* was created with students in mind. It is meant to be a resource for printmaking students and instructors to view and assess contemporary standards of printmaking as they develop over time. This creates an environment for learning opportunities and creative thinking, promoting new ideas which stretch the limits of the medium. In addition, it is an outreach program which serves as a resource for the region, bringing attention to printmaking as a medium but also sharing the variety of stories told by each individual piece.

A print is an artwork made by transferring an image from one surface to another. However, this definition can be explored through a nearly endless number of techniques and processes. It is important to see this work in person. The scale of the print, the tactile and visual qualities of the paper, true colors and textures, and artist skill cannot be fully appreciated any other way.

There are few restrictions to the eligibility of this renowned print competition. Photographs are allowed in addition to prints as a means of giving the image priority over the technique. Unusual approaches are encouraged - unique impressions and digital imagery that are historically excluded from print exhibitions. This allows and encourages artists to push the limits of printmaking and creatively express themselves in new and revolutionary ways.

The range of images shown in *DNSPE* represents the spectrum of contemporary printmaking. Many artists work with traditional materials that require meticulous precision such as wood and metal engravings. On the opposite side of the printmaking spectrum, the digital and technological influence of photographic processes

and digitized images presents itself more each year.

One of the most important characteristics of this exhibition is the size limitation put on the artists. Time and again Evan comments on the importance of working small and how this creates accessibility for the historically intimate artform. Previous *DNSPE* juror Joann Moser agrees, stating “At a time when big is often equated with importance, it is essential to remember that prints have traditionally been intimate, hand-held works of art that derived much of their impact from direct contact with the viewer.”

Each year, a juror reviews all submissions and selects which ones will be exhibited. The juror for *DNSPE* 2022 will be Miranda Metcalf, the founder and host of *Hello, Print Friend*—a contemporary printmaking podcast. With an archive of over 100 episodes with artists and print advocates from over 20 countries on 6 continents, *Hello, Print Friend* is the most extensive archive of interviews from the print world on the internet. Miranda planted the seeds for her love of printmaking with five years as director of Davidson Galleries in Seattle, Washington, before moving to Sydney, Australia, and working with Cicada Press.

All jurors seem to agree on one fact, that the selection process is very difficult. Looking at hundreds of prints and narrowing the selection down to 55-60 in a few days is no subtle undertaking. Jurors continuously comment on the wide variety of techniques and imagery from both emerging and established artists who create an overview of what is happening technically and conceptually across the nation.

BAM strives to give back to the artists who contribute to this exemplary exhibition by purchasing a large portion of the show to add to their permanent collection, but it would not be



Juror Merit Award

Linda Whitney

Nāpesis - Tiny Tot Fancy Dancer, 2020

mezzotint

30 x 22 in.

possible without the support of the amazing group of community members who provide purchase prizes and exhibition support each year. This encapsulates the artwork and preserves its history for viewers and students to enjoy for years to come. Each exhibition is represented in a yearly catalog, documenting history and including statements from each juror explaining their decision-making process.

DNSPE 2022 will open February 17th with an opening reception at 5PM and close on March 30th. Viewing hours are Tue-Sat 12PM-5PM. For more information about Bradbury Art Museum or to learn how you can support future exhibitions, please call (870) 972-3687. ▲▼▲