Spudnik Press Cooperative Celebrates 10 Years of Community Printmaking

Chicago, IL Spudnik Press Cooperative is celebrating a milestone: A decade of community arts programming in support of Chicago artists, designers, and all who wish to be creative through print. In June 2017, they will kick off a full month of special programming as well as a fundraising campaign to support their mission to provide affordable and approachable printmaking resources to Chicagoans.

Without a communal studio, dedicated equipment, highly trained staff and approachable programs, printmaking is out of reach for most. However, Spudnik Press has found inventive ways to keep their extensive collection of tools and equipment available to all. They opened the doors of their work/live studio in 2007 with a simple drop-in Open Studio program. For a small fee, anyone could drop by and make a print. Today, their programming has expanded to include a network of opportunities from youth field trips to three month residencies for local artists. In 2016 alone, they hosted over 587 students and 668 Open Studio visits.

10th Anniversary festivities include a variety of programs that showcases the programming, resources, and artists supported by Spudnik Press. Ten unique programs will take place throughout the month of June including an intimate gallery talk with incoming and graduating Studio Fellows, a pop-up art sale at Galerie F, family friendly community workshops, and a Drink & Draw event complete with birthday cake.

The largest celebration will be the Birthday Bash Printing Dash on Saturday, June 3, featuring an afternoon of print-themed field day competitions, studio tours, music, and food. Donations from this event will be invested in the all-new member-driven Equipment Fund. This new initiative is raising funds for equipment upgrades, expansions, and repairs.

Spudnik Press Cooperative is also debuting a new Print of the Month Club that highlights 12 of their 175 members. Each month, subscribers will receive a fresh-off-the-press print designed by a member of the cooperative. Print of the Month Club sales directly fund the featured artists and sustain the day in day out programs at Spudnik Press.
10 Events to Celebrate 10 Years

Through out June 2017, Spudnik Press Cooperative is presenting a full calendar of programming that includes hands-on art making, community projects, exhibitions and art sales, conversations, celebrating, and fundraising. Each event will connects programs and initiatives at Spudnik Press with students, emerging artists, established artists, collectors and art consumers. Together, the calendar of events aims to promote dialogue, raise awareness, and expose artists to new audiences.

Thursday June 1:
Crossing of the Fellows: Exhibition & Artist Talks
This twice-annual event brings together our graduating class of fellows and our incoming cohort to present their artwork and discuss their projects.

Friday June 2:
Private Reception: Crossing of the Fellows
Spudnik’s donors are invited to join the Board of Directors for a cocktail reception celebrating seven emerging artists supported by our 2017 Fellowship Program.

Saturday, June 3:
Birthday Bash Printing Dash
If anyone knows how to party it’s us nerdy printmakers! No seriously, we turn ten this year and are letting our hair down. We’re throwing a party so big it takes over the entire studio and spills into the parking lot.

Wednesday, June 7:
Drink & Draw: CAKE & Comics

Please visit spudnikpress.org for more details

Saturday & Sunday June 10-11:
Spudnik Press @ CAKE
Spudnik heads to Center on Halsted to participate in a weekend-long celebration of independent comics.

Friday, June 16:
Where we have been, before we go Opening Reception
Featuring prints that investigate the art making process as a progressive and ever-evolving exercise, artists produced diptychs reflecting past and current art practices.

Saturday, June 17:
Pop-Up Print Sale @ Galerie F
Our members are mounting a one-day print sale and BBQ at this Logan Square haven for print collectors. The event is free, but bring $ for art, burgers and brats.

Sunday, June 25:
Papermaking & Paste Paper Community Workshops
A full day of Family-friendly donation-based workshops.

Date TBD: Fine Art Publishing Panel Discussion
Presented by the Annual Benefit Committee.

Thursday, June 29: Member Birthday Party
Hosted by the Equipment Fund Committee. Stop by for drinks, food, and our annual Member Yearbook Photo!

The late afternoon sunshine slanting through the loft windows, the random “ka-thunking” of the presses, the smell of ink, the hissing of the power washer, the noisy chaos of the risograph—it all makes Spudnik feel like the right place to make art.

Ellie Dunham
Spudnik Press Student
THE HISTORY OF SPUDNIK PRESS:

Spudnik Press Cooperative is a community-based art center located in a warehouse-turned-arts hub in West Town, Chicago. Unique in their dedication to printmaking and the cultural traditions surrounding print, their studio houses professional facilities and rare equipment for a wide variety of traditional print processes and fine art publishing. A 4800 sq.ft. studio includes shared work space, private studios and mixed-use spaces for exhibitions, classes and community events.

The organization began in 2007 as a live/work studio. Executive Director, Angee Lennard, created the community-integrated print shop. Programming began with a simple weekly drop-in Open Studio session and now includes a rich network of opportunities for anyone who wishes to be creative through printmaking.

By 2011, the organization received 501(c)3 status, moved to a dedicated studio space, acquired additional printing presses and hired their first staff. Within four years, Spudnik Press was able to offer access to professional letterpress, relief, intaglio, bookbinding, screen printing, and offset printing facilities. Programs expanded through new Open Studio sessions, a local residency program, youth field trips and through publishing prints in collaboration with artists and designers. Another studio expansion in 2013 allowed for the creation of the Exhibitions Program and added yet one more type of printmaking to their repertoire, Risography.

In recent years, the studio has expanded the depth and scope of their professional track programs including their Studio Fellowship and professional development opportunities for members. Through producing a decade of rich artistic programs, the organization has become a critical resource for Chicago artists and designers.

SPUDNIK PRESS MISSION & VISION:

Spudnik pursues its mission—“to provide facilities and services to artists who need a place to create or exhibit their original artwork, especially those who cannot obtain access to traditional printmaking facilities and exhibition spaces because of financial or other limitations” and “to provide education in printmaking practices though uniting professional artists with a diverse community of emerging artists, established artists, youth, and adults”—by offering a multitude of programs that combine studio access, professional assistance, education, collaboration and the presentation of original artwork.

By providing minimal barriers to Spudnik’s well-maintained, robust printmaking facilities and gallery, Spudnik Press builds a rich community of artists and art-consumers engaged in the vibrant landscape of fine art printmaking.