

Haverford Humanities Internship Proposal

Philagrafika Background

Mission: Philagrafika's mission is to promote and sustain printmaking as a vital and valued art form by providing artistic, programmatic and administrative leadership for large-scale, collaborative projects with broad public exposure. Philagrafika builds upon the region's rich history and abundant cultural assets to increase critical dialogue, provide benefits for the local arts community, and enhance the city's presence as an international center for the printed image.

History: In its first five years, Philagrafika, founded as the Philadelphia Print Collaborative (PPC) in 2000, organized city and regional festivals, public art programs, and published an annual print portfolio program that supported the work of regional artists to create prints with master printers. An important goal of these programs was to build trust and familiarity between and among member organizations; to establish a collective process for determining need and priorities within the field of printmaking; and to develop sustainable program models that would raise public awareness of printmaking resources in Philadelphia. These three elements – trust, familiarity and an adaptive process – have fostered collaborations that are mutually beneficial, supported through collective resources and, in the end, sustainable. What started as a collective enterprise has quickly grown into a solid platform for regional, and more recently, international initiatives.

Philagrafika 2010: The Graphic Unconscious was the inaugural presentation of what we expect to be an international contemporary art triennial. A Philadelphia first, *Philagrafika 2010* occurred from January 29 to April 11, 2010. A multi-sited exhibition, *The Graphic Unconscious*, this core exhibition was supplemented by a series of history-based artist residency projects, *Out of Print*, referencing collections at five Philadelphia institutions.

Intern Project: Doing Time

The Haverford intern would focus primarily on providing support for a project called *Doing Time*, an artist residency with two Spanish artists, Patricia Gómez y M^aJesús González. The artists will be working in a decommissioned Holmesburg Prison in Northeast Philadelphia, and will be working in Philadelphia for 5-6 weeks in the summer of 2011. The artists use a conservation technique to remove the paintings and drawings by inmates from the walls of the prison blocks. These imprints will then be exhibited at Moore College of Art & Design in the spring of 2012.

The intern would assist the Philagrafika Program Manager with the program partners, artist project planning and production in the summer of 2011. The intern will gain experience in project planning, marketing, public engagement, and community outreach. In addition, we are interested in gathering research about Holmesburg Prison – so the intern would also possibly be doing research about the history of the prison.

Need for the intern

We are a small staff and hiring an intern assist with this project will allow us to further develop ideas for educational and outreach activities for *Doing Time*. This project requires research and analysis that will require considerable time and effort that is beyond the organization's current staff capacity to undertake. Our current staff of four includes a Program Manager who will supervise the intern on this project.

Intern responsibilities might include:

- Researching history of Holmesburg Prison, conservation techniques, articles, and texts relevant to the curatorial themes of the project
- Work with project staff on postings for the Philagrafika blog
- Depending on Spanish language skills, assist with interpreting for artists and translating of materials into English
- Working with staff on travel arrangements and other logistics associated with artist project
- Assist staff with exhibition publication

Skills needed

Writing

Basic editing

Research

Organization

An interest in contemporary art and the printed image

Word processing

Working knowledge of Adobe InDesign and Photoshop are not a requirement, but is a plus

Spanish, the artists working on this project speak English, but have requested that translators be available during specific times of the project. So, we would be interested in an intern fluent in Spanish, but this is not a requirement.

Challenges

The Philagrafika work environment is fast paced and the intern needs to be a critical thinker, have the ability to organize time, work with staff to determine the work flow for production. We have staff meetings once a week where we determine work flow and responsibilities. We have a small staff and we are responsible for multiple organizational territories. The intern would have support from staff, but they must be able to organize their time to meet deadlines.

Philagrafika will have events and programs that will take place during the course of the summer and the organizational expectation is that all staff and interns pitch in with tasks.

Schedule

Monday through Friday 9-5 pm but will adjust schedule when there are special projects or when meeting deadlines.

Travel/Location

www.philagrafika.org
info@philagrafika.org

1616 Walnut Street, Suite 918
Philadelphia, PA 19103
t. 215.557.8433

The Philagrafika offices are located in Philadelphia 1616 Walnut Street in Center City Philadelphia in Suite 918 on the 9th floor.

Intern may be asked to travel to other institutions to do research, but this is within walking distance or public transportation. The intern would be provided with a desk and workstation for the duration of his or her project.

Staff supervision

Day to day supervision of intern would be Caitlin Perkins, Program Manager.

Caitlin Perkins – Program Manager

Since joining the Philagrafika staff in 2003, Caitlin Perkins has managed Philagrafika's public art projects and programs including *Printing Philadelphia: The Rub!* and *The Big Block!* and *Re:Print Re:Present Re:View*. Perkins coordinated project planning and implementation including the artist residencies, artwork production, and event logistics. Perkins has an MFA in Printmaking/Book Arts from The University of the Arts and is a founding member of the Philadelphia Center for the Book. She is a practicing printmaker working out of Space 1026 in Philadelphia and has exhibited at the ICA in Philadelphia, the Yerba Buena Center in San Francisco, and in Milan, London and New York.

José Roca – curator for *Doing Time*

José Roca is a curator based in Bogotá, Colombia, where he is the Director of Art and Other Collections at the Luis Ángel Arango cultural center of the Banco de la Republica. Roca is also currently the Artistic Director of Philagrafika 2010: The Graphic Unconscious, a quadriennial of contemporary printmaking to be held at multiple venues in Philadelphia in 2010. He edits *Columna de arena*, an online column on art and contemporary culture. Roca also co-curated the Trienal Poli/gráfica de San Juan, Puerto Rico (2004), the 27th São Paulo Bienal (2006), and served as curatorial adviser for the newly structured Medellín Encuentro (2007). He was most recently part of the awards jury for the 2007 Venice Biennale.

Resources

For more information on the organization please visit www.philagrafika.org

To read the Philagrafika blog you can click from the website or

<http://philagrafika.blogspot.com/>

Contacts

Caitlin Perkins, Program Manager (215) 701-6148 cperkins@philagrafika.org