

ART 465: Midterm Reflection

Interning with studio artist, Michele Cook, at Arcadia Press has been stimulating and educational. She is a printmaker who mainly uses letterpress, a tool we do not have in the Converse University printmaking studio. I have learned many different aspects of printing with the letter press and just standard printmaking in general, that have allowed me to see what it would be like to be a printmaking studio artist. Running a studio requires a lot more than just making art at your own leisure. The work at the studio is difficult and constant. As soon as one project is finished, there is already another project lined up. Maintaining the studio while always producing new prints is a constant challenge. The challenge has been fulfilling however and very enjoyable to see the results of our labors in the many editions of letterpress prints.

The letterpress was new to me at the beginning of the internship, but now I am quite familiar with its ticks. Learning the vocabulary alone took me quite a while: loading the jobstick with letters oriented upside down and backwards, measuring in pikes instead of centimeters, and arranging the furniture on the letterpress were all foreign to me at first, but come easily to me now. I feel confident enough that I could even teach someone else about the letterpress at this point.

Thus far in the internship we have completed a project that included 80 editions for the Hub City Book Club. These prints included a poem by John Lane and a large illustration of flowers made by a woodcut print by Michele Cook. I took the editions through the letterpress, added white detailing to the flower petals, and cleaned up the edges of all of these editions. The white detailing, I had to paint on the petals of the flowers on all 80 of the editions took me quite a long time, but ended up adding a nice pop to the flower illustrations. I am proud of how the editions

turned out and Michele Cook allowed me to keep one print for myself because I worked on them for so long.

Overall, I have loved working at Arcadia Press. We are currently starting another project to make invitations for an event at the Milliken Guest House. For this project, I am creating and setting the type and mixing the ink in addition to printing the invitations, and cutting the paper. I am excited to begin on this new project and to have more responsibility around the studio!