

ART 465: Final Reflection

I interned under Michele Cook at Arcadia Press Arts. Michele Cook is a freelance studio artist printmaker who rents the Arcadia Press space for her personal studio on one side, and an art gallery on the other side. I have assisted on several projects this internship including: an edition of 80 letterpress prints, an event invitation design, a dinner party invitation design, and experiments with relief printing paired with chine-colle processes. The edition of 80 prints was the most time consuming of all the projects because there were so many of them. After I ran them all through the press with Michele Cooks' supervision, I also had to paint all the white details on the flowers by hand to give them more of a pop. The event invitation design and the dinner party design ended up not being printed because the letterpress rollers were out of alignment and needed to be repaired. The last project I assisted with was the chine-colle experiments that ended up quite successful. This process was very finicky with sticking wet paper together, but it ended up with a nice texture and design element. In addition to those projects, I have also been in charge of upkeep in the studio and running errands for various resources we need for projects.

I learned so much from this internship. I learned how to upkeep a studio, how to work the letterpress, and how to run a studio as a freelance artist. In terms of studio upkeep, it is a constant battle to remain organized when there are so many moving parts in one building. Cleaning alone took up a vast majority of my time during this internship. Learning how to use the letterpress was one of the most fun and tiring aspects of the internship because I knew nothing about how to work a letterpress going into this. I had to learn how to organize a jobcase, load a jobstick, tie up the words that you are going to print, and set them on the letterpress with furniture holding them tightly together. After doing all that, rolling them through the press is the easy part. Finally, I

learned what it means to work in a personal studio place. We had to order new materials often, and constantly look for shows to enter or events that would like printed pamphlets or letters.

Running the studio takes a lot more effort than it may appear on the outside.

My future endeavors were definitely influenced by this internship because it was like looking into the future of what I could do if I pursued being a freelance studio artist. It is a lot of work. Being a freelance artist does not mean you get to simply make art every day. You have to be constantly looking for new opportunities to show and sell your work, while balancing your schedule and your resources. This has not made me want to stop being a freelance artist, if anything it has had the opposite effect because I loved the constant influx of learning opportunities and different problems to solve. In the future I would absolutely love to work at a place like Arcadia Press because the art studio and art gallery environment is so full of energy and freedom.

This internship has been extremely related to my major, because I was the direct assistant to a freelance studio artist, which is also the career I want to pursue. Working with Michele Cook has allowed me to see what it is really like to be in business for yourself and the constant challenges that go into that. My majors are Art History and Studio Art. Not only was this internship relevant to my studio art major, but also my art history major because I often had to pick up books from the library about past printmaking processes that we were going to experiment with at Arcadia Press. This internship overall was enlightening about my potential future career and it was very helpful to see all the little things that have to be done in addition to making art.