

Introduction to Letterpress Printing

Saturday, August 10th, 2013 – 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Mt. Airy Art Garage, Studio #3
11 W. Mt. Airy Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19119

For 500 years, printing was done by mechanically pressing inked metal type to paper. Now that electronic screens permeate every aspect of our lives, the inviting tactility of physical printed matter has become treasured as something special.

Explore the art of letterpress printing in this one-day introduction to setting and printing from metal type. Students will learn the basics of typography, setting type, and printing with a small tabletop platen press. Get an overview of the basic tools of the trade, and learn how to use a pica rule, composing stick, leading, and spacing material. Become familiar with the layout of the California Job Case, and learn interesting facts like where the phrase "out of sorts" comes from. Learn how to mix ink, lock up a type form, and safely operate the press. Understand inking procedures, how to achieve proper impression, and press clean-up.

Class participants will have the opportunity to set and print their own name or a short phrase on a simply-designed card. Supplies, tools, and ink are included in the materials fee, as well as a small quantity of fine paper. No previous experience is required. Bring notepaper and pencil for taking notes, and an apron or smock that can get dirty. You will leave with multiple copies of your first letterpress keepsake!

Examples of letterpress printing, resources for further study, and more advanced workshop opportunities will be presented. Options for printing imagery will be discussed. Bring all your questions and curiosity about letterpress printing!

Workshop is 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, with a break for lunch. Class is limited to six participants, so sign up today! Cost is \$80 plus a \$15 materials fee. Contact donna@mtairyartgarage.org for more information or to sign up.

About the instructor: Donna Globus has been printing with metal type for 18 years, and has taught workshops in printing and book arts at the University of the Arts, Cedar Crest College, and the Mt. Airy Art Garage. Her work has been exhibited widely, and can be seen at www.darkroompress.com