

## Call to Artists from the American Print Alliance for *Soap Box Prints 3: The democratic PRESS*

### **Soap Box**

1. A carton or crate used for holding soap.
2. A temporary platform like a shipping crate on which one stands while making a spontaneous and often impassioned public speech or call for action.

The American Print Alliance in conjunction with the Art Department of Kennesaw State University is asking artists to create prints in a major tradition of our art – commentary on politics and the impact of printmaking on actual events.

Note that the title for this Soap Box portfolio is comprised of three words. “The” is the definite article, emphasizing that democracy can survive *only* with freedom of speech and a free press. The “little d” of “democratic” indicates that we are advocating for this specific form of rule: a democracy with three *independent* branches of government, in opposition to a dictatorship or oligarchy or anarchy. “PRESS” of course refers to the physical equipment used in so many techniques of printmaking as well as the right to express one’s political opinion, one’s hopes and dreams, disappointments and calls for action to remedy wrongs – in a way that reproduces and disseminates that speech in multiple copies to be seen by a wide audience. In addition, the pressure of “press” reiterates our resolve and the critical need for immediate and substantive action.

The news reports widely contrasting views of our current political state. Artists have an obligation to question current events and respond to them. Transgressive work is relevant to protect one of the most important rights that supports democracy: freedom of the press. As artists we are called to action through our artwork. Let us embrace the traditions of printmakers and poster artists and use our graphic imagery to share our individual opinions of current events, politics, elections and change. Our messages will certainly differ, but through our prints we can stand united to voice our certainty that the freedom to express those views is essential to our democracy! This is your opportunity to submit art relating to the political themes about which you feel most passionate, and have your work widely seen. Get on your Soapbox!!

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the American Print Alliance may not campaign for or against candidates for elected office, and we will not accept any work that incites people to break the law (except the proud tradition of non-violent civil disobedience). Although the appropriation of imagery is a frequent component of contemporary printmaking, please be sure that the work you submit does not violate any copyright.

**We recommend viewing the Alliance’s previous Soap Box Prints portfolios online at [www.PrintAlliance.org](http://www.PrintAlliance.org).**

All prints that meet the submission criteria will be shown whenever possible (there should be hundreds of prints!). After the initial exhibit opening November 6, 2018 (Election Day) at Kennesaw State University and at this year’s Print Dialogue Day planned by the Atlanta Printmakers Studio, selections will be sent to subsequent exhibition venues depending on their space available. For example, a school with only one 12 foot long wall for displays could show a 4 row x 10 column array of 40 prints. A city hall might ring the lobby with a double row and show a hundred.

Where there is not enough space to show all work, prints will be selected based on the image’s ability to engage the viewer, encouragement of multiple viewpoints, originality of concept, and quality of the work. No attempt will be made to balance artists from different parts of the country, various techniques, or liberal or conservative ideas. Works will be chosen to create an exhibition that is visually exciting, thought provoking and even confrontational. The exhibit itself will demonstrate that prints can be an influential part of the democratic process.

### **Entry specifics:**

**Please Note:** The deadline for entries to arrive is September 28, 2018. Mail your package in plenty of time for snail delivery, Peachtree City is considered rural Georgia and mail takes a few extra days!

**The entry form is attached below.**

The majority of the work must be printmaking; collage, photography, hand coloring and other additions are permitted, but must not interfere with the artwork's essential character as a two-dimensional, easy-to-disseminate print. Submissions must be *original* prints, reproductions will not be accepted. The Alliance accepts traditional and non-traditional printmaking, including computer-manipulated and -printed (inkjet or laser) images that are original prints and not reproductions of artwork in other media. Prints may include text that complements the imagery, not text that carries a disproportionate emotional charge.

Each artist may submit one print individually and one made as part of a collaboration. You must be 18 to vote and to submit to Soap Box 3.

All work must be on printed on paper or cloth. Work must fit into and be presented in a mylar or archival polyester envelope, minimum size 8 x 10", maximum size 11 x 17", works larger than 11 x 11" must be vertical format (i.e. nothing wider than 11"). Do NOT seal the plastic envelope. Fill in a separate PDF submission form for each entry, print two copies on acid free paper, sign both copies and enclose them in the package with your print(s). The entry form is attached below.

Prints must have been created since the election of November 8, 2016. Prints created on commission, "for hire" or for a protest movement (e.g. #MeToo, the Women's March, Black Lives Matter) are eligible only if the artist has not transferred copyright or assigned exclusive reproduction rights.

The deadline for entries to arrive is September 4, the day after Labor Day. Mail your package in plenty of time for snail delivery, Peachtree City is considered rural Georgia and mail takes a few extra days!

Please enclose a \$5 donation per print to help cover the costs of display and shipping, including the wire system, clips, title banner and wall texts, crates, etc. Artists from foreign countries are not expected to send a donation but are encouraged to enter their work.

Artists are asked to donate their entries so that this Soap Box portfolio can travel as an exhibition as long as needed and then become part of the Alliance archives. Artists retain their copyright.

Dr. Carol Pulin, founding director of the American Print Alliance; Valerie Dibble, coordinator of printmaking at Kennesaw State University; Jamaal Barber and Chris Neuenschwander will select up to 15 prints for special recognition and \$100 prizes. These prints will be posted online before the election to show the most compelling presentations of calls to activism (voting, assembling, demonstrating, taking part in political life, serving in office) combined with the essence of printmaking's accessibility, graphic background and creativity. Additional prints will be posted when we can do so; eventually we hope to post the entire portfolio.

We are interested in venues for this exhibit to travel so if you have a space, please send an email to Val Dibble at [vdibble@kennesaw.edu](mailto:vdibble@kennesaw.edu). There is no exhibition fee, the only cost will be return shipping (generally less than \$50), which may be underwritten by grants. Spaces where it would be seen by the general public, including people who might not otherwise go to a gallery or museum to see a printmaking exhibition, are especially sought, e.g. your gym, church, city hall, library.

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**Submission form** – please type or print clearly!

Last name \_\_\_\_\_, First name \_\_\_\_\_  
Or Collaborative group name \_\_\_\_\_

Title of print \_\_\_\_\_

Date of artwork \_\_\_\_\_ Dimensions: height x width \_\_\_\_\_

Technique (Be specific: "etching & aquatint," not "intaglio." NOT "mixed media." No brand names of materials, please.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Snail mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize the American Print Alliance ("Alliance") to post a digital representation of my artwork on its website, [www.PrintAlliance.org](http://www.PrintAlliance.org), and to use the image in publicity for the Alliance and the Soap Box Prints portfolios. The Alliance reserves the right to refuse to post or publish my artwork at the Alliance's sole discretion. I warrant that the image or artwork is entirely owned by myself and does not violate any copyright, trademark, intellectual property or other laws, and that the information provided on this form is true and accurate in all respects. I hereby indemnify and agree to defend and hold harmless the Alliance from any intellectual property or other infringement claims asserting any unauthorized use of another person's work and from any defamation, libel or similar claim. I agree that the Alliance shall not be liable for any intellectual property claim that arises from the unauthorized use of my artwork by any third parties. The Alliance recommends that artists register their work with their country's Copyright Office for international legal protection. I authorize the Alliance to scan, reproduce, transmit and display my artwork electronically for on-screen viewing on a non-exclusive, royalty-free and worldwide basis. To the extent that such scan or reproduction constitutes a derivative work under the copyright laws, I expressly grant to the Alliance permission for such derivation of my artwork, and I hereby waive my rights under the Visual Artists Rights Act and any other state law or law of a foreign country regarding my moral rights of integrity in the artwork with respect to its inclusion in the Alliance website.

I hereby donate my submitted work to the American Print Alliance for exhibition and archive.

Signature and date of submission \_\_\_\_\_

Artist's statement (optional, please limit to this space or 75-100 words):

Be sure to complete and sign two copies of this form for each print. You may submit only one print created individually and one created in a collaboration.

**Mail with your \$5 per print donation to: American Print Alliance, 302 Larkspur Turn, Peachtree City GA 30269-2210**