



**Contact:** Jonathan Higgins  
**email:** [ink@mannekenpress.com](mailto:ink@mannekenpress.com)  
**telephone:** 309-829-7443

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**An exhibition of contemporary fine art prints produced at Manneken Press is featured at the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria.**

*“Artists of Manneken Press” is an opportunity to see recent works by top artists from one of the nation’s premier print publishers.*

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**BLOOMINGTON, IL (February 18, 2023) –**

Exquisite fine art prints by contemporary artists will be the focus of an exhibition at The Contemporary Art Center of Peoria’s Preston Jackson Gallery. The exhibition, [Artists Of Manneken Press](#), will showcase works by 18 contemporary artists produced at [Manneken Press](#), a fine art press located in Bloomington, IL. The exhibition dates are February 24th - April 18th 2023. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 5pm. A gallery talk by Manneken Press director Jonathan Higgins will be given on March 3rd beginning at 7:00 pm. A public reception will be held on March 18th from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Admission to the exhibition and reception are free. The exhibition is suitable for all ages. The Contemporary Art Center of Peoria is located at [305 SW Water Street, Peoria, IL](#).

“Artists of Manneken Press” includes works by 18 contemporary artists from across the United States and beyond, including several from nearby Bloomington, IL, and from as far as Chicago, New York, Colombia and Spain. This exhibition builds on a previous show at the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria of works made from 2000 – 2011, and extends the continuum with a focus on prints from 2012 to the present.

“Artists of Manneken Press” is a unique opportunity for the Central Illinois community to view compelling contemporary prints by some of today’s top artists. The exhibition forefronts artworks that assert the foundational acts of two-dimensional investigation over narrative, are experimental, unequivocally stirring, intelligent, primarily abstract and suited to the medium of printmaking, with strong compositional, material and graphic qualities.

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The artists included in the exhibition are Carlos Andrade, Mel Cook, Brian Cypher, Jack Davidson, Rupert Deese, Jonathan Higgins, Catherine Howe, Richard Hull, Mary Judge, Gary Justis, Anna Kunz, Judy Ledgerwood, Matt Magee, Jill Moser, Kate Petley, Sarah Smelser, Philip Van Keuren and Brenda Zappitell.

“Artists Of Manneken Press” includes only original works; autographic prints which were specifically intended to be made in the print medium. They are distinguished from digital or reproductive prints which are copies of works of art made in another medium (giclée prints). Autographic prints can be limited editions (multiple originals) or unique prints (monotypes or monoprints).

Artists from Rembrandt and Goya to Robert Rauschenberg and Kiki Smith have made prints an important aspect of their creative practice. Contemporary painters and sculptors often opt to work with an experienced practitioner, like Manneken Press, who possesses the skills, equipment and sensitivity necessary to help realize the artist’s vision. Such is the case with painters Judy Ledgerwood and Richard Hull, and sculptor Gary Justis. Other artists, such as Sarah Smelser use printmaking as their primary medium of expression. This persistent interest in printmaking underscores the medium’s vitality and importance in contemporary and historical art contexts. “Artists Of Manneken Press” exemplifies varying ways that contemporary artists manifest their ideas in print. Several fine art printmaking techniques are utilized throughout the exhibition: etching, aquatint, woodcut, collagraph, photogravure, monoprint and monotype. Photogravure, a 19th C. method of photographic reproduction, a hybrid of photographic and printmaking techniques that is rarely practiced today, is highlighted in the prints of Philip Van Keuren and Kate Petley.

[Manneken Press](#), located in Bloomington, IL, is a fine art press that publishes original, limited edition and unique prints, portfolios and artist’s books by significant contemporary artists. Owner/operators Jonathan Higgins and Sarah Smelser founded Manneken Press in 2000 and have established a reputation as leading publishers of contemporary prints. The press represents the work of more than 30 artists. Its inventory consists primarily of prints augmented by drawing, sculpture and photography in order to show the full scope the the artists’ oeuvres. The artists are invited to Manneken Press to work in close collaboration with master printer Jonathan Higgins on their projects, which are hand-printed on an etching press, using traditional, time tested techniques and materials. Manneken Press regularly participates in fine art fairs around the United States, including those in Baltimore, Berkeley, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, Miami, New York City and Palm Springs. Prints from Manneken Press have been exhibited in many galleries and museums, including the Museum of Modern Art, NYC, and have been reviewed in publications such as [Art In Print](#), [Art In America](#), [Grabado Y Edición](#), [ARTnews](#), and [Art On Paper](#).

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The [Contemporary Art Center](#) is Peoria's cultural hub, occupying a historical building on Peoria's River Front, hosting exhibitions in its three galleries, presenting music, dance and poetry events, and housing 15 working artist's studios.

More information about the exhibition and venue: [https://www.facebook.com/events/764436127981398/764441027980908/?active\\_tab=about](https://www.facebook.com/events/764436127981398/764441027980908/?active_tab=about)

All works in the exhibition are available for purchase.

**Press Contacts:**

Jonathan Higgins  
Director, Manneken Press  
[ink@mannekenpress.com](mailto:ink@mannekenpress.com)  
(309) 829-7443

William Butler  
Executive Director, Contemporary Art  
Center of Peoria  
[cac@peoriacac.org](mailto:cac@peoriacac.org)  
309-674-6822

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