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an international association of artists

special edition  
spring 2013

# The Boston Printmakers *e-newsletter*



**SPECIAL EVENTS AND  
EXHIBITIONS EDITION  
OF THE SPRING 2013  
NEWSLETTER:**

***\*Iron Printmakers\****

***\*Carol Summers Retrospective\****

***\*Don Gorvett's Lifetime  
Achievement Award\****



Image above : Winning team from AIB in Iron Printmakers challenge. Team name: AIBeasts. Captain: James Mustin  
Team: Gary La Pointe, Danielle LaCasse, Lucia Balcazar, Danielle Kelly

## **IRON PRINTMAKING: An Extravaganza Conceived by Carolyn Muskat**

**by Lois Tarlow**

On the morning of March 2, I entered the huge print studio at Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt) only to encounter a field of energy so intense it was palpable. It could light up all the street lamps in greater Boston and beyond. Four students from each of the printmaking departments of four local colleges were in competition for the ascendant position in printmaking. This printing meet was the idea of Carolyn Muskat, a well known master printer, owner and operator of Muskat Studios, and a powerful force in printmaking.



Zooming around like characters in a speeded up film were the four teams of printmaking students, each with a coach, from Boston area art schools: the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston University, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, and the Art Institute of Boston.

The rules were as follows:

- No preparation before this big day. None! No drawing on the wood block, no prepping the silk screen, no exposing the Toyoba etching plate or the Pronto litho film.
- AND, each team's print had to use all four print methods--relief, litho, intaglio, and creen or stencil--and produce an edition of ten by 2:30 that very afternoon!

The previous week, the teams were allowed a brainstorming session in which they verbally planned out what to carry in their heads, while leaving wiggle room to incorporate the three mandatory, diabolic, mystery items. How could they possibly foresee making art that integrates green Easter basket grass, yellow caution tape, and plastic embroidery stencils? For these Iron Printmakers no challenge was too great!



Patrick Casey, second-in-command of technical matters in MassArt's enormous print studio, volunteered for the whole day. He helped those unfamiliar with the exposing unit, precoated the screens with consistent emulsion, set up the blankets on the etching presses, and carried out any rudimentary preparations that would save time.

For us bystanders, the problem was where to look. Unlike a tennis match where you just sit there and swivel your head, keeping watch here meant scooting to and fro among the teams to observe their progress. The coaches could give advice, help with logistics and technical support, but hands off! They could, however, cheer along with us, the spectators.



Team work was critical. All the steps had to be going on at the same time: preparing and dampening paper, rolling out ink, inking the plates for all four print processes, and coming up with a finished edition of ten prints in four and a half hours.

Amenities for the participants were a breakfast of bagels and coffee, and a healthy greens and protein lunch from noon to 12:30. Then, back to work until 2:30 when all printing stopped and judging began.

The three judges were Christiane Corcelle from Belmont, MA, Jon Cartledge from Easthampton, MA, and Erika Adams from Montreal. Admittedly, it was a tough call, but somebody had to do it! All the prints were simply amazing. The first prize went to the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley College. The ancillary prizes, however, were to build connections between the students, and showcase the talents and strength of the schools.

There were bonuses for the participants. Each school received a set of the four prints, as did Canson-Arches for donating the paper and the Boston Public Library, a long time collector of Boston Printmaker prints. The event was generously supported by Massachusetts College of Art & Design, Canson-Arches, Takach Press Corp., The Boston Printmakers, Muskat Studios, and Artists and Craftmen Art Supplies. The team members each got a print from their team's edition.

This is just the beginning! Get ready for next year!

**Watch a wonderful slide show of this exciting event on [The Boston Printmakers Website](http://www.bostonprintmakers.org/Iron_Print-2013.html) at [http://www.bostonprintmakers.org/Iron\\_Print-2013.html](http://www.bostonprintmakers.org/Iron_Print-2013.html)**



## Retrospective of Carol Summers

Boston Printmakers member Carol Summers is having a 61 Year Retrospective at Gallery 72 in Omaha, Nebraska, from May 24 - June 29, 2013. Follow this link to see images and learn more: [http://gallery72.com/Exhibit\\_Detail.cfm?ShowsID=211](http://gallery72.com/Exhibit_Detail.cfm?ShowsID=211)

Carol Summers hosted The Boston Printmakers printmaking trip in Guanajuato, Mexico, in 2010.



## Lifetime Achievement Award for Don Gorvett



Boston Printmakers member Don Gorvett recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Salem State University for his artistic endeavors. In the photo above, from left to right, is Don Gorvett, with printmaking instructors Benjamin Gross and Haig Demarjian from Salem State University.

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