

Tamarind Institute – Report

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to The Stationers Foundation for their generous support. Without it, this amazing educational opportunity would have been very difficult to achieve. The education I have been given at the Tamarind Institute has left me in good stead for finding employment and opportunities in the printmaking world.

Tamarind's Printer Training Program is a 2 semester-long course in which we learn traditional and contemporary methods in Lithography. There are 8 students so resources and teaching time is very generous. Tamarind teaches collaborative printmaking meaning that students are paired together to help problem solve and to ease the printing process. While one person prints with the roller, the other sponges the stone or plate for the printer, making the process more efficient.

Alongside being in the workshop, we are required to take 1 class per semester at the University of New Mexico. The first semester is Business in the Arts and the second semester is The History of Graphic arts.



My Class (L-R) – Amy from Yorkshire, Lourdes from Mallorca, Ben from Albuquerque, Christine from Arizona, Me! Jake from Tennessee, Klaire from Ohio and ST from Singapore

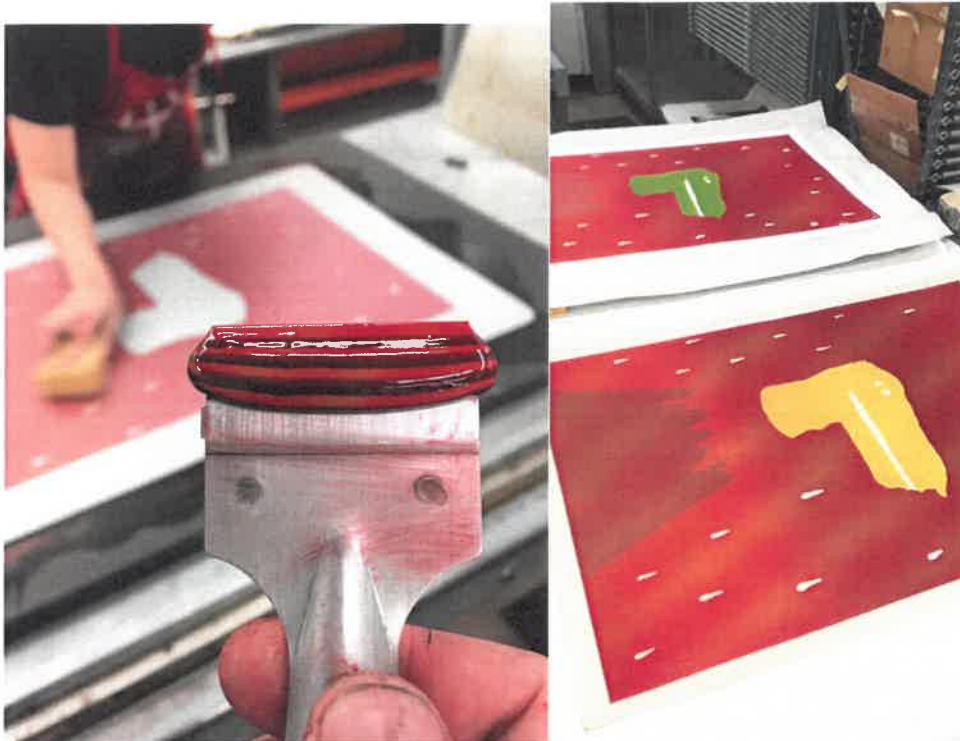
The course commenced in late August 2017. During the first semester we were given 'P' Projects. These are technical tasks in which you are given parameters to create a lithograph using certain materials and methods. You have a short amount of time to create an edition of prints and after that the edition is curated and you are told what edition size you have. (These tend to be quite small editions to begin with as you do not have the ability to print at Tamarind's high standard yet).



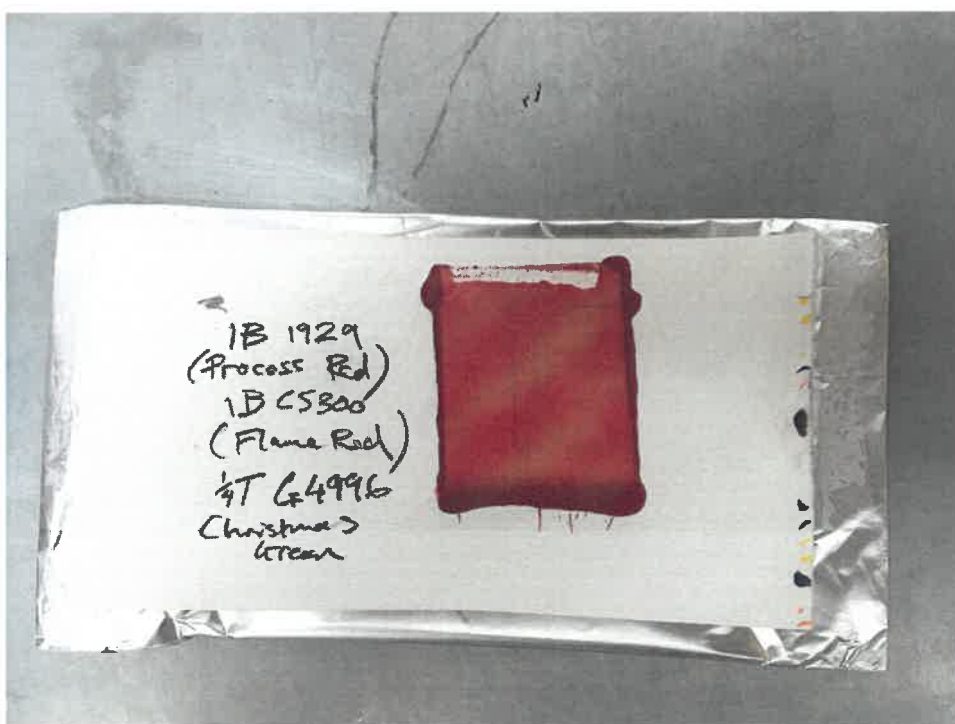
Drawing Crayon Bands onto stone and reviewing the printed edition

A typical day begins at 8am and usually we don't finish until 8-10pm. We are asked to take a day off once a week which tends to be a Sunday. However projects begin to pile up on each other due to the short amount of time we have meaning that we often would work 12-14 hour days, 7 days a week. It was extremely tough going to begin with but after a while you get used to it and being purely immersed in the workshop helps you to learn from your mistakes and become more efficient printers.

Some of the 'P' Projects involves creating your own work. However, this will not be necessarily printed by you. You will come up with an idea and one of your peers will print your work for you. This is mimicing a collaborative workshop environment where an artist will come to the workshop who may not know anything about the medium of lithography but have an idea about what they want printed. Then the artist and printer will discuss various routes to go down to make the print. This discussion includes imagery, paper size, edition size, colours, paper colour, materials to use, techniques, etc. Once the artist has drawn their image, it is down to the printer to create the print.



Printing a layer on one of my images and trying different colour proofs for the print



An Ink recipe for the red background

During the course, when time permits, we go on trips or have visiting printers come to the workshop to tell us about their experience at a different workshop, or how to set up a workshop or fix a press e.g. These visits are always very insightful as Tamarind has a very set way of doing things and it is important to understand that outside of Tamarind there are a huge number of ways to achieve creating a successful print.



Aaron Shipps from Bedrock Editions giving us a demo on creating 'Flats'



Learning how to create Tusche washes

Tamarind likes to have a strong presence at local and international events. They often partake in community events and international art fairs to promote lithography and the services they offer.



Open Studios at Tamarind



A print demo in downtown Albuquerque



Tamarind at Southern Graphics Council International in Las Vegas

The second semester commences in early January. In this semester we are given an artist to work with every 3 weeks. The first week is to let the artist create an image, the second week is proofing – printing their image in different colours, papers, size etc. The third week is editioning. Once the approval to print has been signed by the artist, we can begin printing the edition. The pace is very different from the first semester. You have time to prepare whilst the artist makes their image. However, proofing can be tough as you may have to try a large number of approaches to the print until the artist is satisfied.



Some trial proofs I made for one of my artists



Mixing a colour during proofing



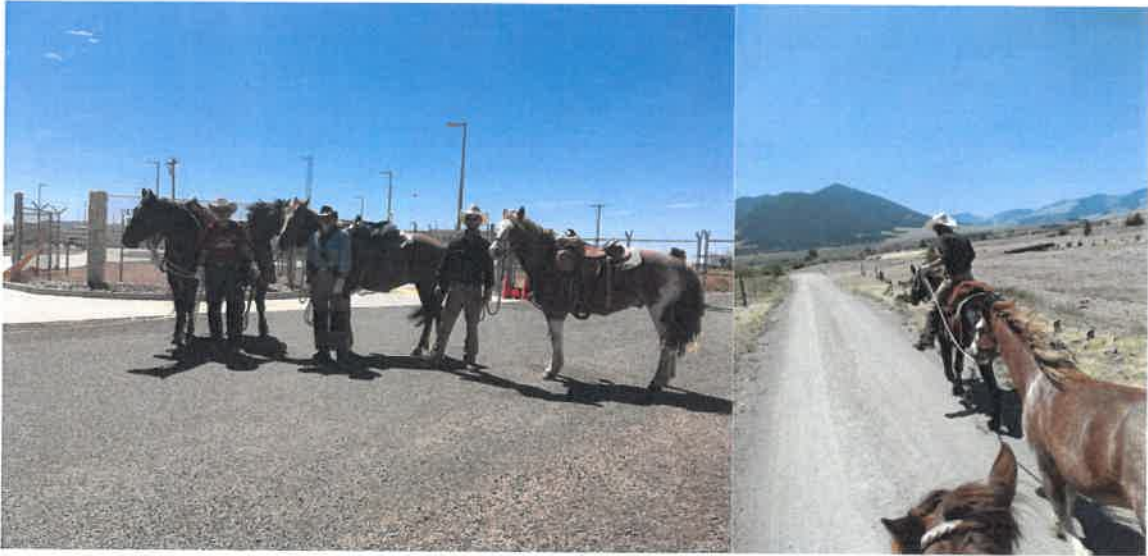
Feeling the burn after printing blends with this heavy roller for 12 hours

Although the second semester is a different pace. I still found myself working long hours, 7 days a week. There is never spare time. There is always something you can catch up on or improve. The course ends on the 12th of May and I was working up until 30 minutes before graduation just to get finished! It felt like a huge accomplishment. I have never worked so intensely for such a prolonged amount of time. The Tamarind Printer Program not only makes you a great printmaker and collaborator. It teaches you to manage your time wisely, problem solve and enjoy any spare minute you have free!



Graduating with all my friends from the course (on the left – Brandon Gunn, the Education Director)

The very next day I was on a horse, riding from the Mexican Border to the Canadian Border. Nice to have a change of scene for a while!





TAMARIND INSTITUTE

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Certificate is hereby granted to

MARK WALLIS

Tamarind Printer

In recognition of successfully completing the

Professional Printer Training Program

With an understanding of lithographic practice and theory, technical expertise
in both traditional and contemporary processes, and collaborative skills.

May 2018



Diana Gaston, Director

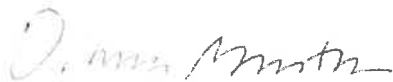
Brandon Gunn, Director of Education

MARK WALLIS

Successfully completed the
Tamarind Institute
Professional Printer Training Program
Fall 2017 - Spring 2018

Tamarind Institute's Professional Printer Training program is an intensive two-semester program devoted to the full-time study of the theory and chemistry of lithography. Advanced student printers undertake a series of demanding projects designed to provide comprehensive experience in printing from stones and aluminum plates, both in black and white and color, drawn using a variety of processes and techniques. Each of the projects is printed in a small edition; these editions are evaluated according to the meticulous standards appropriate to a professional workshop. Emphasis is placed upon the ability to analyze and solve the many problems inevitably encountered in hand printing, and upon producing high quality work with the greatest possible efficiency. In the second semester, students gain experience in collaboration through projects in which they work with invited artists and selected graduate students (from various artistic disciplines) in the Department of Art at the University of New Mexico. Students are required to complete two additional courses offered through the University of New Mexico: Business Planning for the Arts, which addresses a variety of business-related topics, and The History of the Graphic Arts, which examines prints from the 19th century to the present day.

Mark Wallis was one of eight students selected from a field of international candidates for the 2017-2018 Tamarind Printer Training program. He entered the program with a basic understanding of lithographic practice and theory, and through this intensive course acquired technical expertise in both traditional and contemporary processes, a sound understanding of lithographic theory, and collaborative skills.



Diana Gaston, Director



Brandon Gunn, Education Director