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Finding Printmaking's Place in an Interdisciplinary and Post-digital World

Over the past decade there has been an ever-increasing number of digital and post-digital processes being introduced into the studio. Post-digital refers to media that has emerged in the field after the acceptance of digital processes (inkjet printing, digital photography and video, etc.) which, includes the incorporation of Computer Numeric Control (CNC) routers, laser etchers, water-jets, rapid prototyping software, vinyl cutters, drawing machines, and most recently 3-D printing capabilities. As with most new technology over time, the equipment becomes more affordable and use of the technology becomes more accessible to the artist and institution.

At the same time post digital processes are being integrated into studio programs there has been a shift towards interdisciplinary practices in studio art. We are seeing dissolution of the silos that contained specific media and an increase and broadening of the interdisciplinary BFA and MFA. This shift creates a debate on how, as both artists and professors, we integrate these techniques and equipment while not sacrificing traditional techniques. The panel will consist of studio faculty who have or are currently integrating some of these techniques into their studio practice and curriculum. They will discuss the issues and achievements of how they have approached and undertaken this class. This will include both how they have brought these processes into their curriculum and also how this has affected their studio's footprint and the effect this has had on traditional processes in their medium. Members will also be asked to explain issues they see being raised in the future and how they are now planning to address those issues.