

jillian ross print *JRP*

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**CARFAC Foundational Mentorship
Mentor Application**

Dear Carfac

Jillian Ross Print is interested in the Foundational Mentorship Program and hosting up to two mentees for 2023/2024.

Jillian Ross Print is owned and managed by Jillian Ross and Brendan Copestake and is based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Jillian Ross, a leading South African collaborative master printer, returned to her hometown of Saskatoon in 2020 and opened her own print studio after being the Master Printer and Director of the David Krut Workshop (DKW) in Johannesburg, South Africa for 17 years working with celebrated South African and international artists in collaborative printmaking.

With almost 20 years in printmaking, fine art and exhibitions, Jillian Ross Print has a focus on many aspects of printmaking, including ;

- Collaborative printmaking with Canadian and South African artists and print studios to develop print projects.
- Contemporary fine art exhibition design and development with public institutions and private galleries.
- Art education through artist talks and in-person workshops.

Since moving to Canada, Jillian Ross Print has developed several collaborative print projects and educational programs with institutions like Griffin Art Projects, Emily Carr, The University of Alberta and The University of California, Berkley and hosted workshops with the McKenzie Gallery in Regina.

Printmaking as an artform is a complicated process and takes years to develop the necessary skill. As a collaborative print studio, Ross does not work on her own artistic designs, but works in collaboration with artists. The artist brings the conceptual idea to the studio and it's up to the collaborative printmaker to work out the best way to translate that idea into print.

It is thus important for a collaborative printmaker to have a technical skill as well as an artistic skill to be able to interpret what the artist is trying to achieve and thus guide the artist towards the best possible outcome.

There are very few print studios in Canada that offer this service, and even fewer in the Prairies. It is vitally important to work with young printmakers in a studio environment to pass on knowledge and skill. Universities have a role to play in the introduction of printmaking, but the real skill is developed in a real-world scenario of working on real projects. During this time many skills are learned around printmaking, studio management and artist relations.

For printmaking to survive as an artform in today's digital environment, education is paramount. Not only in the training of technical printmakers important but also artists who work in print. Educating a buying audience is also critical in helping those audiences and collectors better understand printmaking as a process and an artform, thereby developing an appreciation and a value. This value chain as a whole needs to be reflected when understating the industry.

For this reason, JRP has a heavy emphasis on education in all the work that we do. We would like to take on apprentices to help train a new generation of printers and artists and constantly are looking for interns and emerging artists to come into the studio, as well as providing studio tours to museums, collectors and new buyers interested in print.

Mentees would be expected to spend a minimum of one day a week with in the studio or more depending on their availability. Depending on their skill level, mentees would be expected to assist in the day to day running of a studio from basic housekeeping, to working with paper, to the printing under the supervision of Jillian Ross and Brendan Copestake. Mentees will have access to the studio to work on their own projects (within reason).

If possible, we would like to be paired with two early career printers.

Saba Tensae is a student at the UofS who has been with us one day a week for the last year. She has showed promising skill and expertise in printmaking and a genuine interest in continuing this artform into a professional career. The skill and guidance we are helping with is translating in leaps and bounds and providing career insights that she never knew possible before.

Rowan Pantel, is a mid-career printmaker who over COVID was in a full time administration work for 4 years. Rowan has recently resigned from administration to pursue her more hands on passion for printmaking. During this transition period and to formalize her career move into a professional capacity, she needs to be upskilled in studio environment.

Working in a small and intimate studio environment, the people involved need to be a responsive team. Rowan and Saba, at different parts of their careers, allow for a balanced effective working environment for training.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Jillian Ross and Brendan Copestake