

American Printing History Association

*To Encourage
the Study of
Printing History*

47th Annual APHA National Conference

“Making Artistic Noise: Printing and Social Activism from the
1960s to the Present”

Los Angeles, California, October 13–15, 2022

The American Printing History Association (APHA) is pleased to announce a call for papers for its 2022 annual conference in Los Angeles. The theme of this year’s conference: the social and political movements of the 1960s and 1970s that reverberated in the printing and printmaking world, inspiring artists and art collectives nationwide. An era that started with the continuing struggles of the Civil Rights Movement, the Kennedy assassination, and the explosion of youth culture gave way to the counterculture, the New Left, and Free Angela Davis campaigns. Unrest gripped America from coast to coast. In 1964, the U.C. Berkeley campus was convulsed by the Free Speech Movement, and soon African American and Chicano/a activists like the Black Panthers in Oakland and the Brown Berets in Southern California were demanding equal rights and major social change. In New York, the Stonewall riots of 1969 marked the beginning of the LG-BTQ+ movement and radical feminism. The massacre of students at Kent State University in Ohio one year later sparked new waves of anti-Vietnam War protests across the nation. With these struggles came a vibrant print revolution that deployed the mimeograph machine, silk screen printing, and other cheap techniques to mass produce posters, flyers, leaflets, and other ephemera.

Conference presentations could explore the conference theme from various historical, artistic or technological perspectives, including:

- Printing and printmaking as activism.
- The collaboration between activists, artists, printers and printmakers in producing political ephemera.
- Historical topics on specific artists, printers, and collectives engaged in political and social movements, from the 1960s to the present.
- The relationship between activist artists and printmakers and the mainstream world of visual arts.
- The role of printmaking techniques and formats in artistic production, including but not limited to posters, zines, mimeograph reproduction, serigraphy/silk screen printing, risograph, letter forms, and digital design.
- The intersection of social movements and printmaking on college campuses.
- The emergence of dedicated college programs focused on printmaking and book arts.
- Post-modern artist collectives.

Submission Guidelines

Proposals are due by April 29, 2022. You will receive a timely acknowledgment that your proposal has been received. Only electronic submissions will be accepted. Please send e-mail proposals as attachments in Microsoft Word or PDF format to: proposals@printinghistory.org.

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Proposals will be accepted by blind judging, so your name, biography, and contact information will be separated before judging by the APHA Programs Committee.

Proposal Guidelines

We are soliciting proposals for 20-minute individual presentations, 50-minute group panels, or posters. Proposals for individual presentations must include the paper topic, a title, and an abstract (500 words maximum). Proposals for panels of three or four speakers (each allotted 15 minutes) must include the panel topic, a title, and an abstract (500 words maximum). Proposals for posters must include the poster topic, a title, and an abstract (300 words maximum).

All proposals must include the following information in the following order:

1. Name(s) of presenter(s) (if proposing a group panel, include names of all group participants)
2. Contact information (mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address)
3. Short biography (100 words maximum for each participant)
4. Three or four keywords to aid in presentation scheduling
5. Title of presentation, panel or poster
6. Abstract of presentation, panel or poster
7. Please begin each item on a separate line. Items 1 through 3 must be on a separate page to ensure blind judging.

Conference Location and Lodging

Rare Books LA (<https://rarebooksla.com/>) is proud to serve as the conference host. The APHA Conference is taking place in conjunction with Rare Books LAX, an antiquarian book, ephemera, fine press, and map fair being held October 14–16, 2022, concurrent with the Conference. Both the APHA Conference and Rare Books LAX are being held at The Proud Bird (<https://www.theproudbird.com>), a historic event center and food bazaar located a stone's throw from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). This joint approach will provide great synergy between the two organizations while pivoting to a general audience and Rare Books LAX participants.

Southern California has a long-established print history culture, from early small presses to modern representations focused on social protest movements and demands for inclusion within greater American society. APHA conference organizers will draw from this wealth of local institutions and resources, including the International Printing Museum in Carson, California; Self Help Graphics & Art, a community artist collective in East LA founded in the early 1970s by Sister Corita Kent and Sister Karen Boccacero; and the University of California-Santa Barbara, UCLA, California State University-Dominguez Hills, and Scripps College. Tours, demonstrations and receptions at these institutions will round out the conference program.

Further details about the conference and lodging options will be posted on the APHA website (<https://printinghistory.org/>) later this summer.