

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

**“Automated Silkscreen Printmaking Technology for
the Department of Visual Arts and Marais Press”**

Title

Brian Kelly, Professor
Department of Visual Arts (PI)

Name of Submitter

Signature of Dean or Administrative Head

REQUIRED

Title: “Automated Silkscreen Printmaking Technology for the Department of Visual Arts and Marais Press”

Date: 7/15/18

Contact Person: Brian Kelly, Professor of Art

Phone Number: 482-5329

Email: briankelly@louisiana.edu

ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

The Department of Visual Arts seeks to enhance the printmaking studio and Marais Press with the adding of new Automated silk screen printing equipment. The goal of this enhancement is to add new automatic silkscreen printmaking technology into the printmaking studio in order to enhance the use of computerized photographic pre-press applications within the department’s printmaking curriculum/studio. This enhancement will impact all students in the Department of Visual Arts, those enrolled in printmaking courses, those concentrating in the printmaking program, and department faculty who require experience in working with modern printmaking technology. *The funding of this proposal will have a direct and immediate impact on all classroom instruction and student learning.*

The addition of this hardware will enrich the institution, increase research capabilities, continue to improve the printmaking studio, and will allow for the continued use of current computer technologies in the Department of Visual Arts, and continue to revitalize computer aided printmaking possibilities. As a result, this enhancement will give student’s and faculty in the department current technologies to develop classroom assignments, post-graduate applications, and to continue to allow departmental collaborations with Marais Press. Finally, the equipment requested in this proposal will allow students and the department to meet both NASAD and SACS accreditations standards

A). PURPOSE OF GRANT and IMPACT ON STUDENT BODY

This proposal requests funds for the adding of an industry standard Automated silk screen printing equipment silkscreen printing press in the Department of Visual Arts printmaking studio. This equipment is needed to provide the all 350 students in the department access to needed professional commercial silkscreen printing technology to allow for the development of research, curriculum enhancements, and enhance and expand the printmaking area allowing for both students and the department faculty to pursue creative expression and multifaceted learning for students in Graphic Design, Photography, Painting, Printmaking, Drawing, Jewelry and Metalwork, Ceramics, Sculpture, Art Education, and throughout the College of the Arts.

The Printmaking studio is a central resource for all 350 students enrolled in the

Department of Visual Arts for the production of both computers aided and hand printed silkscreen graphics. The requested equipment will allow for new research and course development in automated silkscreen printing, expanded photographic silkscreen printing applications. The department's printmaking curriculum and studio provides faculty and student research development, as well as everyday fine art digital documentation and production. The equipment in this proposal is needed in order to maintain current instruction, research, creative production, and the continued introduction of environmental non-toxic printmaking pre-press applications in both the printmaking studio and curriculum in the Department of Visual Arts at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The printmaking studio is a studio where students and faculty from all concentrations and academic units unite and interact and are challenged to explore the possibilities of cross discipline thinking. The technology replacement this proposal would provide will maintain that collaborative experience by providing students and faculty in the Department of Visual Arts and the College of the Arts with the tools necessary for creative interaction across those disciplines.

Within the Department of Visual Arts, the printmaking curriculum and the equipment in this request will impact all VIAR students, as well as those participating in the following courses:

- VIAR 303 Introduction to Printmaking
- VIAR 304 Intermediate Printmaking I
- VIAR 305 Intermediate Printmaking II
- VIAR 403 Advanced Printmaking
- VIAR 309 Special Topics in Printmaking
- VIAR 409 Senior Project I
- VIAR 410 Senior Project II

These courses impact not only printmaking majors but also the students in the concentrations of Graphic Design, Photography, Painting, Drawing, Jewelry and Metalworking, Ceramics, Sculpture, Animation, Media Arts, special projects, Art Education majors in the Education Department, and those in the School of Architecture and Design - a total of 9 major concentrations within the Department of Visual Arts, one major in The College of Education and the students in the School of Architecture and Design. Each of these courses reaches a maximum enrollment each semester.

Sophisticated automated silk screen printing equipment indicating state-of-the-art teaching and learning is extremely helpful in attracting highly qualified students. The ability to give students fine art based training with marketable skills in printing is extremely helpful in attracting students that otherwise may choose a different course of study based on misconception that studio art has no relevance in the commercial and industrial world. The Department's printmaking facility and its technology is a resource for the Department of Visual Arts more than 350 students and provides them with assistance in the development of classroom assignments, the development of post-graduate applications and portfolios, provides them with access to traditional printing and computerized photographic pre-press applications, and also provides continued artist/student print collaborations with Marais Press.

It is the Department of Visual Arts goal to offer students a unique and profound opportunity to learn, work and create within a special arena that connects the traditional

printmaking studio with today's tools and technologies, in order to comprehend the full capabilities of each and complementing both within the process. This enhancement will be helpful in motivating students. The prospect of working in the visual arts and gaining skills that are marketable in industrial and commercial markets will attract many students, providing motivation to obtain a better all around education. The increased presence of new current state-of-the-art equipment and software in the classroom creates an atmosphere that is conducive for the development and improvement of classroom curriculum and teaching methods. The Department of Visual Arts has a long and consistent history of aspiring to the highest level of excellence in its traditional studio areas. When our students graduate they are equipped with the knowledge and the ability to function and compete in their individual fields. Consequently, our students have secured postgraduate appointments throughout the United States, have attained teaching positions and have secured employment in their individual fields.

The requested equipment and will provide the opportunity for hands-on experiences with contemporary technologies allowing students to establish a competitive posture within their career arena and academic field. This proposal will allow the printmaking curriculum to continue to impact and graduate students across the College of the Arts and University with skills that cross over into multiple disciplines providing a variety of experiences in problem solving with a diversity of materials and processes. It will also provide students with a broad base of techniques with an understanding of the methodology for problem solving and build the positive self-esteem they need to function in the often multi-phased work environment.

The printmaking studio is a resource within the Department of Visual Arts where many students from all concentrations unite and interact. This is also a facility where faculty and students are challenged to explore the possibility of cross discipline thinking. The equipment this proposal would provide will enhance that collaborative experience by providing students with the tools necessary for creative interaction across those disciplines. Collaborative experience provide students with the tools necessary for creative interaction across all the disciplines in the Department of Visual Arts and allow for the use and experimentation of new printmaking techniques and processes. This collaboration provides students with real-hands on experiences that are marketable in both the collaborative fine art and commercial printing environments. The printmaking program at UL Lafayette is the only program in the state of Louisiana that has committed itself to both the teaching and research of alternative printmaking techniques and the embracing of collaborative research exchange between the University and the printmaking and artistic communities. This relationship between the academic classroom and that of a professional printmaking press is unique.

B). PROJECTED LIFETIME OF ENHANCEMENT:

The equipment in this request is a professional industrial commercial automated silk screen printing equipment silkscreen printing press that will last 30+ years. This lifespan is based on product research in local printing companies by Professor Kelly in the Department of Visual Arts.

C). PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND TRAINING:

The printmaking studio, room 301 and 303 Fletcher Hall in the Department of Visual Arts, will house the proposed equipment. The printmaking lab is 3,500 square feet and houses a computer/imaging print lab, printing presses, a darkroom, separate processing areas for intaglio, silkscreen, relief, digital and lithographic printing processes, and student workspace. This lab is secured and open 7 days a week. Brian Kelly, Professor of Printmaking coordinates both the Printmaking area and Marias Press, a collaborative printmaking facility within the College of the Arts that invites artists of regional and national stature to collaborate with printing students in the Department of Visual Arts in the production of editioned prints. Professor Kelly staffs and maintains the printmaking facilities and all the equipment located in the studio and computer-imaging lab. If this STEP proposal is successful, Professor Kelly will be responsible for the implementation, installation, maintenance, operation and training of all software, firmware and equipment.

D). BUDGET:

1 – M&R Renegade - 22x30.....**\$12,000.00**

The M&R Renegade Automated silk screen printing equipment Silkscreen Press is an industrial automated silkscreen printing press designed for printing flat graphic artwork and graphic posters. The press comes with all equipment needed for operation and a 1-year technical support and equipment warranty. M&R Renegade presses are the standard for compact flatbed graphic presses, delivering absolute precision and exceptional results whether screen printing on circuit boards, nameplates, panels, backlit graphics, flexible membrane switches, glass, or ceramics, and it excels on four-color halftone screen printing. When it comes to professional graphic screen printing equipment, the M&R Renegade is the ultimate combination of speed, efficiency, flexibility, and print quality in a small-format flatbed graphic press.

SUB TOTAL EQUIPMENT REQUEST - **\$12,000.00**

E). BUDGET PROPOSAL:

| Equipment | | | |
|------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------|
| Quantity | Item Description | Cost Per Item | Total Cost |
| <i>1</i> | <i>M&R Renegade Silkscreen Press - 22x30</i> | <i>\$12,000.00</i> | <i>\$12,000.00</i> |

| Personal | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Quantity | Item Description | Cost | Total Cost |
| <i>None</i> | <i>N/A</i> | <i>\$00.00</i> | <i>\$00.00</i> |

| Shipping | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|
| Item Description | Cost | Total Cost | |
| <i>N/A</i> | <i>\$00.00</i> | <i>\$00.00</i> | |

Grand Total (Requested Funds) - \$12,000.00

H). PREVIOUS STEP FUNDING:

Professor Kelly last received a STEP in 2010.