



Press Release

Date: Monday 20 January 2014

Print festival nurtures new Leeds creative talent

Leeds Print Festival - Friday 24th - Friday 31st January 2014

Celebrating its third year Leeds Print Festival is back with an even bigger range of print activities for print enthusiasts to indulge in. The week-long festival that champions contemporary and traditional print making processes begins on Friday the 24th of January with an opening night celebration at Leeds Gallery that will showcase this year's Print Exhibition.

Leeds College of Art's graphic design Programme Leader Amber Smith is the founder and organiser of Leeds Print Festival: *'This year we have adopted a more in-house approach by attempting to keep all the design and production within Yorkshire'* says Smith. *'Leeds has changed a lot in recent years with so many independent studios, events and spaces opening that we have benefitted greatly from being part of that community'*.

The festival comprises of a showcase, an exhibition, a print fair and print talks from speakers including: Mr Bingo, Patrick Burgoyne editor at Creative Review, Pat Randle from Nomad Letterpress and designer and illustrator Si Scott.

Amber Smith is very keen to create opportunities for students studying on the BA (Hons) Graphic Design programme to gather real-life creative experience. The opportunity to network with and exhibit alongside members of the creative community leads to an alternative creative experience for students.

Both current and past students are taking part in this year's festival. Leeds College of Art alumni Dutch Holland comments: *'Leeds print festival is a fantastic event, I can't think of anything in the region that compares when it comes to bringing print designers, artists and enthusiasts together over a single weekend to celebrate and enjoy the craft of print.'* Having graduated from Leeds College of Art, Dutch has continued to stay in touch, whilst working in London, by working with Amber on coordinating the print fair. Dutch comments *'It definitely gave me a platform for launching my career into the design industry, by immediately getting an internship in London off the back of last year's 2013 print festival and soon after gaining full time employment at a leading graphic design agency'*, he goes on to say *'Even though I now live and work in London it's a privilege to be involved in the Leeds based event and feel proud to represent Leeds College of Art as a*

graduate after being given so any opportunities whilst I was studying on the graphic design course'.

For those of you interested in the Leeds Print Festival please visit their website, where a full line up of exhibitors and speakers can be found: <http://www.leedsprintfestival.com/>

Leeds Print Festival schedule as follows:

- Opening Night Celebration Leeds Gallery Fri 24 Jan 6pm - 9pm to attend please email: info@leedsprintfestival.com
- Print Exhibition Leeds Gallery Fri 24th - Fri 31 Jan (Free entry)
- Leeds Print Festival Showcase Café 164 Fri 24th - Fri 31 Jan (Free entry)
- Leeds Print Festival Prints Colours May Vary Fri 24th - Fri 31 Jan (Free entry)
- Print Fair Leeds Gallery Sat 25 Jan 10am - 6pm (free entry)
- Print Talks Leeds College of Music Sun 26 Jan 10am - 5pm Tickets on sale now for £20 leedsprintfestival.eventbrite.co.uk



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Editor's Notes**Leeds College of Art**

Founded in 1842, Leeds College of Art is an innovative institution that has changed the way art qualifications are taught and structured in Britain today.

We combine academic and vocational excellence in all our undergraduate programmes. Our focus is to put student's talents to practical use, so their creativity is channelled towards a successful career or postgraduate study.

Our students and staff create a unique community of vibrant, ambitious and deeply creative artists and designers. We are based in Leeds, an internationally acclaimed centre for teaching and learning in addition to being a leading hub for creative and digital industries.

www.leeds-art.ac.uk

Leeds Print Festival

Leeds Print Festival started in October 2011 when we wanted to hold an event at the then newly opened Leeds Gallery. Initially it was going to be a small event but as we started to plan the idea grew and turned from what was going to be a one-day print fair into a week long festival. Collaborating with The Print Project, a print studio based in Bradford was a turning but point and we continue to work together for what will now be three festivals.

This year we have adopted a more in-house approach by attempting to keep all the design and production within Yorkshire. Leeds has changed a lot in recent years with so many independent studios, events and spaces opening, we have benefited greatly from being part of that community.