

Prospectus: **Veteran Print Project** – *Red Wing Arts Association*  
Exhibition: May 2014

*Veteran Print Project seeks to bring two divergent groups, veterans and artists, together to express the historical experiences of veterans through the traditional methods of fine art print, opening an ongoing dialogue between these two groups.*

Requirements:

- Deadline Date: Prints must be **received by April 30, 2014**
- Artist must sign an agreement statement provided by Veteran Print Project.
- Each artist will be given contact information for one veteran. Artists will contact veteran and discuss her story. Any arrangement to meet or have further dialogue will be at the discretion of the participants. Some veterans will have recorded oral histories at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. If this information is available, the artist will be provided information on access to this material.
- **Media:** Any Traditional Printmaking process: Relief, Linocuts, Woodcuts, Intaglio, Lithography, Serigraphy, Collograph, etc.- **No digital prints or photocopies unless combined with a SIGNIFICANT portion created with a traditional printmaking process.**
- Paper Size: 12.5 x 19 inches. Print/image size is open. \* If making a *Bleed* print, please inform Yvette M. Pino so proper arrangements can be made for mat-cuts for exhibition.
- Edition: **10** identical hand-pulled, original prints, include glassine sheets or tissue paper between each print, cut to match paper size.
- Each print must be **Signed and Numbered**
- Artists will be asked to submit, along with their print, a brief description about the veteran's story and explain what elements of the story led to the imagery created in the print. This statement will be exhibited next to the print.
- Artists will NOT be allowed to use this as a political forum. All prints are subject to approval by the veteran before exhibition.
- Artists may contact Veteran Print Project at any time with questions and or concerns about the creation of the print.
- If a veteran does not approve her print, their concerns will be addressed and respected. If they request the print to be removed from the exhibition, that request will be considered and a discussion will be had with all parties involved. They will not be forced to participate after the print is made. The artist will still receive a portfolio and be acknowledged as a participant.
- **There is No Fee for this Portfolio**
- Each Veteran will receive a copy of his/her print.
- Veteran Print Project will retain two editions for its archives. The remaining prints will be used to fundraise for Veteran Print Project and the Red Wing

Arts Association.\*\* There will be further opportunities for the artist to receive a percentage of sales of the prints.

- All prints submitted will be exhibited at *TBD*.

## Frequently asked Questions

- What exactly is the portfolio we will be editioning?

The portfolio is an edition of 10 prints\*, size 12.5 x 19 in., orientation: portrait or landscape.

- Are digital prints accepted?

Prints can contain digital imagery but **MUST** have at least one traditional, hand-pulled method.

- Is your intent that each artist is paired, given an oral history and then sent to design a print inspired by that oral history? Or is it expected to be a documentation?

The artwork is to be a design inspired by the oral history or a specific story the veteran shares with the artist. **IT IS NOT A DOCUMENTATION**

- How do you see the oral histories translating to print? Or how are they expected to relate?

The artwork is your interpretation. The only requirements are no profanity is to be used, and the print must respect the veteran's service and is **NOT** to be used as political opinion or content. This print does not have to be a storyboard for the entire oral history you listened to. It can be inspired by a specific moment. In other words, be respectful and use discretion. War is not pretty. We understand that.

- Is there a wrong way to do this?

There is no right way to do this. If you need, go with a moment in the story where you said, hmmm, that's interesting. The only way to do anything wrong is to be disrespectful or slanderous. When I say disrespectful, I mean portraying this veteran in a really bad light, or by making some political element out of this. If the veteran you have has portrayed himself as such, let me know and I will listen to the story and get back to you.

Let me just offer some perspective from a veteran point of view. I am willing to share my oral history for the sake of documenting history.

I experienced some really crazy things, and the experiences I had may not reflect the red white and blue God bless America that everyone pictures heroes to portray. The reality is that most heroes see themselves as villains and hate what they had to do or experience to do their job. But these guys were willing to share that experience and that point of view. Be as respectful of that as you can. If you are conflicted, produce the print that beckons your inspiration and we will go from there. I cannot possibly ask you guys to draw daisies and rainbows and call it war. War is war. But war, in my opinion, is filled with passion, heart, tears, love, camaraderie, devotion, endurance, and insanity. If you can capture just an essence of that, then you are on the right track.

- When I contact the veteran, what do I ask?

The point is to get to know each other a little bit. You will be portraying this person's story visually. Ask them where they are from, etc. Some of your questions may be answered in the oral history. Ask the veteran if there is anything in their story that they feel may be off limits. If they are not uncomfortable about it, discuss it. You may be able to communicate visually in a way they never thought of. You will be surprised. Do not push the veteran for detailed info. Some may not feel comfortable sharing particulars. You can discuss color preferences, but don't pigeonhole yourself and stunt your creativity. You are just getting to know another person. Relax.

- Are we supposed to make a print based on the veteran's story? Or collaborate on the print together? Or print the image he/she comes up with?

The print is simply based on the veteran's story. It does not have to incorporate his entire history-- just elements or something specific that made you go, oh I can picture that, etc. The veterans are NOT part of the Artistic process. We are merely using their story as inspiration. If you choose to collaborate, that is your prerogative, but is not required. However, you must correspond with your veteran at least once.

- If you have any problems or conflicts of interest, please let me know. We want this to be a fun and rewarding experience-- For EVERYONE