Virtual Letterpress

David Sargent’s current practice uses letterforms as a way to celebrate body diversity. His current research investigates the application of animated lettering and augmented reality (AR) in the field of body image awareness and intervention campaigns.

In this project, Sargent used the letter ‘A’ to create a range of custom designed letterforms, which are ‘All visually different, but still all identify as the same.’ He started by drawing the letterforms and converting them into letterpress blocks using laser cut acrylic. Sargent played with layering them as relief print, with the assistance of Clint Harvey of Bacon Factory, Brisbane. Sargent found, however, that the layering of more than three letters resulted in chaotic and unsightly outcomes. To overcome this, Sargent began exploring how AR technology, combined with the traditional relief process, could create an image incorporating all eight ‘A’ letterforms. Once the letterforms were converted into a digital image these could then be viewed through an AR app installed on the phone. In this way eight unique As could be overlaid at once.

davidsargent.com.au

Print in the clouds

Koichi Yamamoto wanted to find a way to take his printmaking outdoors and so began his practice of making print-kites. Yamamoto’s kites feature faces whose eyes stare down from the sky. He says, ‘I want to make these kites live and hold their own spirit and the face is the most effective way to make the spirit live on the kite.’

To create his distinctive printed kites Yamamoto uses relief print which allows him to print by hand directly onto the kite material. Yamamoto has settled on using Tyvek, a synthetic material, having previously experimented with gampi and kozo papers which he found more expensive and less durable in the outdoors.

The SGCI’s 2020 gathering in Puerto Rico’s theme is Exchanges: Air, Sea & Port. Yamamoto will be collaborating with 30 artists to make a collection of print-kites. Yamamoto says that this project is designed to bring people together and look up. There’s no doubt that this aspiration will be fulfilled and the result will be spectacular.

www.yamamotoprintmakin.com
