



# ATELIER CIRCULAIRE

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CENTRE D'ARTS IMPRIMÉS

**SPRING 2024**

## **Letterpress initiation**

**Date and time :** June 8<sup>th</sup> & June 15<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

**INSTRUCTOR:** TUCKER KAPP

**12-hour workshop**

**Maximum of 6 participants**

**No prerequisites**

**Materials included**

**Preparation and what to bring:** An email will be sent out to the participants before the first class.

***This workshop series gives you access to the preferential rate of \$35 for Fridays at the Workshop.***

## **Description**

This practice-centered workshop aims to initiate participants in the basic principles of typographic composition and printing with the goal of creating a small collective edition. Periodical theoretical presentations will allow participants to understand the various technical aspects of the form (moveable type composition, imposition, and printing) while also anchoring them in the physical movements of creative work.

More than just a way to produce a message, texts, first and foremost, are images; this workshop will look at texts and textuality in all of their graphic and geometric richness and complexity, permitting each participant to create an original and collaborative small publication.

## **Content of the workshop**

Letterpress technique can be subdivided into three main, related fields: composition, imposition, and printing. Learning to use moveable type involves exploring and selecting fonts, understanding the meticulous operation of assembling letters in reverse that are, themselves, reversed, engaging with questions of layout and design, and organizing space. Imposition revolves around assembling the disparate compositions, choosing their order and orientation, and adapting the compositions for the possible use of different colors, etc., in order to imagine a final creative product and to guarantee its general harmony. Printing involves presswork, the general mechanical questions of pressure, inking, and placement of paper, so as to obtain in a striking, readable, and satisfying result. The workshop, in addition to exploring these three fields, will begin with a survey of different models of small-books, and will end with the assembling (folding/binding) of a finished edition.

## **Methodology**

In the printing arts, learning is at its most efficient and agreeable when doing, when the hands get to guide brains through texture and touch, rooting theory in the world of materials. Letterpress composition is rather geometric, and so mathematically based, but abstractions are never enough to establish a bonafide practice. For this reason, we will systematically move back and forth between small moments of theoretical explanation that will turn swiftly into applications in practice. Demonstrations/presentations as a group will therefore be followed by (relatively) autonomous, individual work, with the instructor always present to continue to guide and assist. The workshop will be a dynamic, stimulating moment for both heads and hands.

## **Workshop timeline**

### **Day 1 :**

Introduction to letterpress technique, its origins and principles. Presentation of the typographic materials of the workshop : letters/types, spaces, presses, and of the workshop schedule. Demonstration of moveable type composition. Presentation of various models of small books. Discussion and selection of book contents. Selection of fonts, composition of text pages. Beginning of book imposition.

### **Day 2 :**

Finalize compositions and wrap up imposition. Select potential images or dingbats (decorative symbols). Set up press. Print the edition. Assemble and bind. Clean up !

## Instructor bio

Printer and publisher, writer/artist/typographer, Tucker Kapp is currently a doctoral candidate at UQAM in Studies and Practices of the Arts. He is working on a research-creation dissertation in order to understand how tools (manual, mechanical or digital) alter the relationship of artists to the things they create. American by birth and an occasional Montrealer, he lives in rural France where he works with a small press and letterpress studio, [Les Écrits 9](#).

