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This file contains the extended abstract for this presentation.

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Computer Mediated Printmaking: Expanding the Envelope from 2-Dimensional into 3-Dimensional

Artists have consistently tested and challenged basic and established printing technologies. A consistent theme in this developmental process has been a willingness and need by the artist to engage physically with the medium. This experimental exchange or "play" between image and process has defined fine art printmaking as a valid creative practice. Negotiating a personal route, which engages both haptic and pragmatic solutions, is central to the printmaker's creative oeuvre. In this structuralist reading, the printed artefact is clearly the result of a negotiated dialogue: a residue of a particular technological/artistic/cultural symbioses.

However, printmaking is now increasingly mediated by an array of digital hardware and computersoftware solutions, which are increasing taking their place amongst more "traditional" means of working. If printmakers are to take ownership to these digital media in any meaningful way, there is a need to establish completely new pragmatic strategies and theoretical definitions for printmaking. Thus, computer-manipulating printmaking does offer the possibility of generating radically new physical, aesthetic and conceptual frameworks within the medium. The cultural shift this represents may blur, may remove or reinforce the boundaries currently associated with the language of printmaking.

In this paper I will discuss printmaking's relationship to specific computer mediated means of production. In particular the use of CAD, CAM, and RP processes as they impact on my own printmaking practice. This paper will discuss specific strategies and methodologies adopted, with particular

emphasis on computer aided means of printing and reproduction in 3-dimensions using rapid prototyping technology. This paper will discuss to what extent the printed artwork's visual form and meaning, can be a function of 2-dimensional visual evidence? when physically and conceptually digital printing ahs remove any distinction between 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional means of production.

CAD - computer aided design

CAM - computer aided manufacture

RP - rapid prototyping, specifically a type of RP which uses 3D inkjet printing technology.



Z* Corp 3D printer