

About ILSSA

As a Union, ILSSA focuses on improving the immaterial working conditions of its members. An ILSSA membership is a pathway to cultivating a sense of belongingness, developing new skills, and actively reflecting upon practice and the theory behind it. To date we have attracted nearly 300 members working in various media, from textiles to radio.

ILSSA's publications are tools for reflection and often take the form of a call-and-response. Recent calls have included a survey asking members to assess their working conditions as artists, a workbook asking members to ruminate on their relationship and experience with time, and a request for members' to write manifestos for publication. Often these responses become the basis of additional publications and exhibitions.

Since 2012, ILSSA has enjoyed solo exhibitions at institutions nationwide including St. Mary's College (IN); The Center for Craft, Creativity, & Design (NC); PRESS! at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; Asheville BookWorks (NC); and Colorado College. <http://impractical-labor.org/>

About ILSSA Co-Operators

Bridget Elmer and Emily Larned are the founders and Co-Operators of ILSSA. Bridget Elmer (Local 347 Shop FS), is an artist living and working in St. Petersburg Florida, where she is rebuilding her Craftsmen Superior platen press, tuning up her '66 GMC flatbed truck, and retrofitting open source philosophy to book technologies. Bridget is a co-founder of PRINT ST. PETE Community Letterpress and she is the Coordinator of the Letterpress and Book Arts Center at Ringling College of Art and Design, where she also teaches as an Adjunct Professor. She received her MFA in Book Arts and her MLIS from the University of Alabama. Emily Larned (Local 917 Shop RC) is an artist living in Lordship and working in Bridgeport Connecticut, where she is fitting as much type as possible into the bed of her Vandercook, firing up a '05 Risograph, growing and cooking vegetables, and knitting. Emily is an Associate Professor and Chair of Graphic Design at SASD, University of Bridgeport. She received her MFA in Graphic Design from Yale School of Art.