

Kathryn Hunter

Richard & Barbara Basch Gallery  
Ringling College of Art and Design  
November 3 through November 19, 2016

Paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Tax Revenues

WEBSITE: [kathrynhunterfineart.com](http://kathrynhunterfineart.com)



#### BIOGRAPHY:

Kathryn Hunter grew up in Decatur, Alabama surrounded by good north Alabama storytellers and embellishers. After one year of college, she went looking for adventure in the tall mountains of Montana and Wyoming where she resided for almost ten years. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in printmaking from Montana State University, Bozeman in 1999.

She returned to the south in 2000 to attend graduate school at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. In 2003, she earned a Master of Fine Arts in printmaking. Currently, Hunter operates a custom design and letterpress printing business called Blackbird Letterpress in Baton Rouge, which she started in 2003.

Her fine art is represented by LeMieux Galleries in New Orleans, LA. She is a member of Ladies of Letterpress and an artist member of Baton Rouge Gallery of Contemporary Art. Her work is part of the permanent collections at Louisiana State University Museum of Art and Special Collections of Skillman Library, Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, among others.

In addition, a few books where her work can be seen are: Keeper of the Tales Trilogy, by Ronlyn Domingue, Atria Books, 2014 and A New Trend in Letterpress Printing, by Miki Usui, Pie International, Japan, 2014.

Her work is part of the permanent collections at Louisiana State University Museum of Art and Special Collections of Skillman Library, Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, among others.

## BLACKBIRD LETTERPRESS:

Blackbird Letterpress, Baton Rouge, LA.     [Blackbirdletterpress.com](http://Blackbirdletterpress.com)

Kathryn Hunter began Blackbird Letterpress in 2003 in Lafayette, Louisiana, after she bought a Chandler & Price 8 x12 letterpress. Since she couldn't move the 1100lb press into her apartment, her friends, Pudd & Leigh Anne, came to the rescue by offering their back room as a printshop. The type came from a printer outside of Chicago. Pudd & Kathryn flew up to the Windy city and loaded a couple tons of type and cabinets and other goodies out of a basement into a moving truck, and drove it back to Bayou Country. A collection of vintage printers' cuts came from a long time printer in New Iberia, Louisiana. The print shop grew little by little in that back room until it was bursting the seams. Blackbird now works out of a mural-clad building in Baton Rouge, which they share with a cool metalworking business and two frisky guard dogs. The print shop continues to expand with the addition of a Vandercook SP15, C&P 10x15, Heidelberg Windmill 10x15, a 30" paper cutter, flat files, and lots of other tools.

## GALLERIES:

Her work is represented by LeMieux Galleries in New Orleans, LA.

<http://lemieuxgalleries.com/web/groups.asp?id=Suspension.txt>

Katherine Hunter is a member of the

Baton Rouge Gallery     <http://www.batonrougegallery.org/kathryn-hunter/>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- “Mississippi State University Artist-in-Residence Program Welcomes Printmaker.” US Fed News Service, Including US State News Aug 28 2013. [Available online from ProQuest.]
- Shipley, Jonathan. “Ladies of Letterpress.” Fine Books & Collections. Summer 2013. <https://www.finebooksmagazine.com/issue/1103/letterpress-1.phtml>
- “Well-known Artist to Unveil, Donate Refuge-Inspired Creation.” US Fed News Service, Including US State News Sep 26 2014. [Available online from ProQuest.]
- White, Jessica C. Letterpress Now: A DIY Guide to New & Old Printing Methods. Asheville, NC: Lark Crafts, 2013. [Available in Kimbrough Library Open Reserves]

RESUME:

*KATHRYN LAVENDER HUNTER*

blackbirdletterpress(@gmail.com • kathrynhunterlineart.com

Education

- 2003 MFA: Studio Art/Printmaking.  
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- 1999 BFA: Studio Art/Printmaking.  
Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana

Professional Experience

- 2003-present Blackbird Letterpress, sole proprietor- Custom Letterpress printing & design, wholesale/retail stationery line
- 2016 Louisiana State University- instructor- graduate MFA Printmaking seminar, Advanced Printmaking
- 2011 & 2009 Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Instructor -Intro to Book Arts
- 2009 Southern University, Baton Rouge, Instructor -Drawing  
Louisiana Artworks, New Orleans, Louisiana -Printmaking Instructor
- 2004-2008 University of Louisiana, Lafayette, Adjunct Visual Arts Instructor  
Basic 2D Design, Basic 3D Design, Drawing 1, Art Appreciation  
Senior Thesis Committee member 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008
- 2007 & 2008 Corporate and Continuing Education, Baton Rouge Community College, Arts and Media summer camp instructor
- 2000-2003 Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Teaching Assistantship  
Instructor of Introduction to Book Arts, Fall 2002, Spring 2003,  
Instructor of Intaglio, Fall 2001, Teaching Assistant of Intaglio, Fall 2000,  
Introduction to Book Arts, Spring 2001, and Relief Printing, Spring 2002

Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 Suspension, LeMieux Galleries, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2013 Confluence, Mississippi State University, Cullis Wade Depot Art Gallery, Starkville, Mississippi  
submerged, LeMieux Galleries, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2011 confluence, LeMieux Galleries, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2010 from sea to sky, Acadiana Center for the Arts, Lafayette, Louisiana
- 2006 Mapping, Galerie Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana
- 2005 perceive, Artists and Architects, Lafayette, Louisiana
- 2004 Heart of the Messenger, Roshambo Winery and Gallery, Healdsburg, California
- 2003 As the Ravens Watch: Exploring the Oracle, MFA Thesis Show,  
Louisiana State University, School of Art Gallery, Baton Rouge,  
Louisiana Nurses and Crows, The Newz Bee, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Selected Exhibitions

- 2016 currently represented by LeMieux Galleries, New Orleans, Louisiana  
Stitched Together, Hammond Regional Arts Center, Hammond  
Louisiana Logophilia, Baton Rouge Gallery, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- 2015 Suspended, Baton Rouge Gallery, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- 2014 Annual Faculty Invitational Exhibition, Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA  
 Water Water Everywhere, group show, LeMieux Galleries, New Orleans, Louisiana  
 reWORK! invitational, Glassell Gallery Shaw Center for the Arts, Baton Rouge,  
 Louisiana 2013 1-2-3 Collaborate!, Collaboration Portfolio Exhibition, Southern Graphics  
 Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
 Artist Member Group Show, Baton Rouge Gallery, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- 2012 Scope Miami, with LeMieux Galleries, Miami, Florida  
 Water, Baton Rouge Gallery for Contemporary Art, Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
 Uniquely Louisiana, invitational, Louisiana State University Museum of Art, Baton Rouge  
 Dreamcatcher, invitational, Glassell Gallery Shaw Center for the Arts, Baton Rouge, LA  
 Expanding Community Portfolio exhibit, Asheville Bookworks, Asheville, North Carolina  
 Thirty Years of LSU Printmaking, curated by Professor Kimberly Arp, Ogden Museum of  
 Southern Art, New Orleans, Louisiana  
 Visiting artist exhibit, Baton Rouge Community College  
 Myths and Monsters, group show, LeMieux Galleries, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2011 Global Vision, Kyoto Seika University, Japan  
 Ladies of Letterpress Exhibition, Asheville Bookworks, Asheville, North Carolina  
 Impress(ed), invitational, Cecil R. Hunt Gallery, Webster University, St. Louis  
 The Scene: LSU Past and Present, LSU Museum of Art, Shaw Center for the Arts  
 Decadent, invitational, Glassell Gallery Shaw Center for the Arts, Baton Rouge  
 Artist Member Group Show, Baton Rouge Gallery for Contemporary Art, Baton Rouge
- 2010 Menagerie, Baton Rouge Gallery for Contemporary Art, Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
 Space 2010, invitational, Alfred C. Glassell Jr. Exhibition Gallery, Shaw Center for the Arts  
 Growing Pains, invitational, LeMieux Gallery, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2009 Who Loves a Garden, invitational, Louisiana Artworks, New Orleans, LA  
 Breathe, Baton Rouge Gallery for Contemporary Art, Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
 Artmelt, juried exhibition, Brunner Gallery, Shaw Center, Baton Rouge  
 American Dream, invitational, Alfred C. Glassell Jr. Exhibition Gallery, Shaw Center
- 2008 Lineage, visiting artist exhibition, Alfred C. Glassell Jr. Exhibition Gallery, Shaw  
 Center  
 Silence, Baton Rouge Gallery for Contemporary Art, Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
 Hot Tamales, invitational, Alfred C. Glassell Jr. Exhibition Gallery, Shaw Center for the Arts
- 2007 Southern Open Biennial, juried exhibition, Acadiana Center for the Arts, Lafayette, LA  
 Art at The Shop, invitational, The Ephemeral Gallery, Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
 Deck the Halls: A Printmaking Invitational, Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge  
 Community Gallery, Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
 State Fair, invitational, Alfred C. Glassell Jr. Exhibition Gallery, Shaw Center for the Arts
- 2006 December Show, invitational, Galerie Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana  
 Collaborations, invitational, Irvine Fine Arts Center, Irvine, California
- 2005 University of Louisiana, Lafayette Faculty Exhibition, Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art  
 Museum, Lafayette, Louisiana  
 Clutter, invitational, Viento Y Aupa Gallery, Long Beach, California

## Collections

Sam D Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Friends of Noxubee  
Southern Graphics Council, Snakes, Swine, and Cocks portfolio, Zuckerman Museum of Art,  
Kennesaw State University  
Louisiana State University Museum of Art, Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum, Lafayette, Louisiana  
Hill Memorial Library, special collections, Louisiana State  
University  
Special Collections of Skillman Library, Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania

## Publications

2015

*Uppercase Magazine*, issue 25, "Why Do We Make? And Does It Matter?", article  
*Ladies of Letterpress: A Gallery of Prints*, Kseniya Thomas & Jessica White, Princeton

2014 Architectural Books, 2015

*The Chronicle of Secret Riven*, Ronlyn Domingue, original linocut illustrations, and map  
illustration, Atria Books, 2014

*A New Trend in Letterpress Printing*, Miki Usui, Pie International, Japan, 2014

*The Paper Playhouse*, Katrina Rodabaugh, Quarry Books, 2014

2013 *Adventures in Letterpress*, Brandon Mise, Laurence King Publishing, 2014

*The Mapmaker's War*, Ronlyn Domingue, original linocut illustrations, Atria Books, 2013

*Letterpress Now*, Jessica C. White, Lark Press, 2013

*This is Happening: #Life Through the Lens of Instagram*, photography, Edited by Bridget  
Watson Payne, photograph #192, Chronicle Books, 2013

*Uppercase Magazine*, issue 17- letterpress contributor, interview & *Top 10 Tips on Running a  
Letterpress Business*

2012

*New Typography*, Art Power, Ed. Karena Xu, Hong Kong, 2012

2011 *Wrap Magazine*, issue 4, contributor to Making an Impression: The Revival of Letterpress

2010 *Uppercase Magazine*, issue 8- letterpress contributor, issue 10- artwork in Pet Portraits

2010 *Reinventing Letterpress: Inspirational Pieces by Contemporary Practitioners*, Charlotte  
Rivers, RotoVision, 2010

2010 *The Little Book of Letterpress*, Charlotte Rivers, Chronicle Books, 2010

2010 *Impressive: Printmaking, Letterpress, and Graphic Design*, Ed. R. Klanten, H. Hellige,  
Gestalten Publishing, Germany, 2010

2010 *The Image of Business Card Today*, Ed. Jam Mar, Art Power, Hong Kong, 2010

2009 *Art Quilts at Play*, Jane Davila and Elin Waterston, C&T Publishing, Inc, 2009,  
contributing artist

## Residencies, Panels, Visiting Artist, Portfolios, Curator

2015 -Die cutting workshop, Ladies of Letterpress Conference, Mt Pleasant, IA, Type on the Cob

-Designing for Letterpress, Ladies of Letterpress Conference, Mt Pleasant, IA

-Artist Residency, Penland School of Crafts, Penland, NC

2014 -Snakes, Swine, and Cocks printmaking portfolio- Southern Graphics International

-visiting artist- Art Day- Nicholls State University

2013 -Artist Residency, Sam D Hamilton Noxubee Wildlife Refuge, Mississippi

-curator- Human/Animal Bond letterpress invitational exhibit, sponsored by Mississippi  
State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Cullis Wade Depot Gallery, Starkville,  
MS

-visiting artist, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

Continued- Residencies, Panels, Visiting Artist, Portfolios,  
Curator

2013 -1-2-3 Collaborate!, Collaboration Portfolio, Southern Graphics Conference,  
Milwaukee, WI 2012 -Ladies of Letterpress Conference, The Ladies Room panel moderator,  
Expanding  
Communities panel, Letterpress in Business panel, Asheville, North  
Carolina Expanding Communities Portfolio, facilitator and participant  
-visiting artist, presentation, Baton Rouge Community College, Baton  
Rouge, LA 2008 -visiting artist, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA  
2005 & 2007 -Marais Press, University of Louisiana, Lafayette. Printmaking workshop  
& demo along with a print edition contributing to the 2005 & 2007 portfolio

Professional Memberships, Boards, juries

2013 -Mid City Creative Placemaking in Baton Rouge, committee member  
-screening committee member, Baton Rouge Gallery (2009, 2012, 2014,  
2015) 2011 juror, Venus Envy exhibition, Baton Rouge Gallery  
2009-2012 Vice president (2012), board member (2009-2012), Culture Candy, non-profit  
cultural and educational organization  
2009 juror, Surrealist Ball exhibition, Baton Rouge  
Gallery 2009-present Ladies of Letterpress member  
2007-present Baton Rouge Gallery Artist member  
2007-present curator Ephemeral Gallery, Baton Rouge, LA

COMMENTS:

<http://secondstorie.blogspot.com/2012/09/a-visit-with-kathryn-hunter-of.html>

**What first inspired you to create/make what you do now?**

I don't know if there is one thing that inspires me to make what I make  
now. My letterpress inspiration is mostly vintage ephemera and paper  
pieces that offer some kind of interaction with the viewer; holding  
something, spinning, education, etc. Letter writing and correspondence  
inspires me too.

**Your advice for someone just starting out  
and wanting to sell their work?**

Go for it. The market may be saturated but set up at a local arts  
market/fair and you'll shine! Learn what other people are doing and how  
they are pricing, marketing, etc. But look with a little distance so not  
to get overwhelmed.

**Three things or people who inspire you?**

Kara Walker  
Uppercase Magazine  
and vintage ephemera.

**Favorite way to take a break/recharge your creative batteries?**

Sitting on the porch at the fishing camp in the salt marsh of the  
Louisiana coast, 6 miles by boat from the closest marina, with only the  
sound of water and birds.

PRESS:

## Blackbird fly – Fine arts printmaker finds her moment to arise 225 Staff @225batonrouge

<http://www.225batonrouge.com/article/blackbird-fly-fine-arts-printmaker-finds-her-moment-to-arise>

Though her process is more than 500 years old, Kathryn Hunter's work is anything but musty. As the creator and owner of Blackbird Letterpress, Hunter creates textured designs on cards, notebooks, calendars, wedding invitations and other goods using three printing presses, one of which dates back to 1904.

Hunter says the appeal of the letterpress comes from the aesthetic of its products, which have a tactile, handmade quality customers can't get from a computer. She also cites the one-on-one attention she gives to custom jobs as a big draw.

But for Hunter, the work began out of love for the art—she's a practiced artist and member of the Baton Rouge Gallery. What started as a hobby in printmaking turned into a vocation after she studied the trade at Montana State University then earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in printmaking from LSU in 2003.

"It's labor-intensive and technical, but the reward of getting the perfect print is probably my favorite," she says.

Though she tries to keep the art and business aspects of printing separate, her work evolved so she now can use the inspiration from galleries, books and magazines to design a card or invitation. She says producing many of the same items has made the artistic aspects of printmaking and the letterpress accessible for everyone. But it's also created a saturated market, with printing as part of a current trend that has popularized the idea of handmade, whimsical items like stationery and clever gift card designs.

"You have to be true to what you're doing, and if you're doing good work, keep at it. The others come and go," Hunter says.

To combat the contenders, Hunter is active in the letterpress community, communicates with well-established blogs to bring attention to her products and keeps an eye on contemporary styles. Many of her goods feature woodland animals, trees, camping and nautical patterns with anchors and boats. Many also incorporate hand lettering, which is often the work of calligrapher Betsy Dunlap. Hunter emphasizes the importance of creating unique, original designs, sometimes by adding function to paper. Her Bear Hug card, for example, features arms that can hold photos, money, notes and more. Other non-traditional items include a foldable, three-dimensional station wagon and a spinning perpetual calendar.

As Blackbird Letterpress continues to grow, Hunter strives to keep her customer relationships intimate and to educate people about the process of letterpress printing.

The Baton Rouge community has been receptive to the old-fashioned style, she says.

"I think Baton Rouge loves the creative and the handmade, so there's good support from the arts community," Hunter says. "I've been blown away with how it's grown and the support we do get in arts. Hopefully, it will continue to grow."

## Blackbird Letterpress July 31, 2014

<http://www.sweetpeachblog.com/journal/2014/7/31/blackbird-letterpress.html>

I love people who play for a living- who build things and design things and color things. It's just all too much fun... Full time play artist, Kathryn Hunter started her stationery business, Blackbird Letterpress in Lafayette, Louisiana in 2003. She found an avid following and grew her shop in size and popularity. Now based in Baton Rouge, Kathryn continues to attract fanfare with products like this adorable Bear Hug card. As shared on her site, "Her little arms are ready to fill with a note, some cash, a sweet photo or a flower."

Her animal diecut cards are really just the best. My friend Laura in Hermosa Beach would be a perfect recipient for one of these...just hard to pick a favorite. Kathryn grew up in Decatur, Alabama and I particularly like her mini notebooks that pay homage to some southern cities. As a tv producer, I love functional, stylish notebooks like these that fit perfectly in my back pocket. Kathryn's Alabama notebook has a little bonus too- a necklace in the shape of her home state.

As if being adorable was not enough, these handmade notebooks (and all the printed materials at Blackbird) are made with recycled and tree-free materials, soy based solvents and low VOC inks. I'm so impressed by Kathryn's work and so happy that she found a job where she gets to play. We all can benefit. Plus, it makes me want to get out some paper and build something from scratch, like a treehouse or a goat...or maybe my future beach house. Keep up with all the fun happenings over at Blackbird Letterpress, here.

## Kathryn Hunter & Blackbird Letterpress

<http://allthatappears.com/blog/2010/02/>

I quite enjoy Hunter's bold simplicity. Her cutouts, collages and block prints are strong, sometimes quaint and wistful, but always, to my mind, invigorating and life affirming.

The first work of hers I stumbled upon was "She Smiles" (pictured here). Viewing it, I can't help but feel overcome with a sense of resiliency, the strength of this woman's heart fueled by, not what I've come to read as a smile of joy but, rather, confidence. Of course, that is an entirely personal interpretation; I know virtually nothing of the artist or her work. I only know what I like.

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An exhibition organized by Ringling College Galleries  
Mark Ormond, Curator