

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lyell Castonguay
Phone: 207-576-9356
Email: contact@bigink.org

Artists prepare to print big.

Witness the making of giant artwork on April 22 and 23.

KANSAS CITY – Local artists will converge at Print League KC, 3121 Gillham Rd, and print oversize wood carvings. The public can attend and watch the printing process unfold. BIG INK LLC, a New England-based art education company, is teaming up with Print League KC for the first time to make this learning opportunity available.

Artists started carving monumental pieces of plywood in February using hand chisels. BIG INK Director Lyell Castonguay has been guiding them through creating these plates, traditionally defined as woodblocks.

A technician uses a rubber roller to apply ink to the woodblock and lays a sheet of paper on top. A press then applies pressure, transferring the ink from wood to paper. The result is a woodblock print.

Artists spend hours carving images up to almost four by eight feet. "Seeing woodblocks printed at this scale is awe-inspiring," states BIG INK Founder Lyell Castonguay. "You can feel each artist's anticipation build, and it is a treat to be present during the reveal of a finished print."

BIG INK travels the country, hosting dozens of similar demonstrations in partnership with museums, universities, art centers, and galleries. Their portable printing press, called The Big Tuna, is unique in the ability to print large yet travel readily.

The event will be open to the public from 11 AM to 4 PM, where visitors can see up-close printing demonstrations.

The slate will feature Saturday appearances by Janet Shagam, Joy Phillips, Heather Corcoran, Adam Finkelston, Josie Tyrrell, Cedar Nordbye, Yiren Gallagher, James Gallagher, and Luke Ball.

Sunday's artists are Janis Sweeney, Isidoro Leon, Kevin Cozad, Lisa Jacobs-Haberstroh, Kristin Holtgrew, Adam Rose, and Erick Felix.

Admission is free.

Info: bigink.org/calendar

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