

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **McColl Center to host BIG INK**

Discover local art during BIG INK weekend in Charlotte on October 21 and 22.

Artists from the local community will gather at the McColl Center to use The Big Tuna, a giant mobile printmaking press, to create large-scale relief prints. The event is open for the public to attend and observe the printing process. BIG INK LLC, an art education company based in New England, is collaborating with McColl for the first time to organize this demonstration of fine-art printing.

The demonstration will feature local and regional artists' work. Each participant signed up for an online workshop to learn how to carve a woodblock. They have been working from home, receiving guidance from their instructor, BIG INK's founder, Lyell Castonguay. The workshop culminates with an in-person meeting at McColl, where they print their finished carvings together.

Castonguay and his co-founder Carand Burnet will set up a portable print shop inside McColl. Castonguay and his students will apply special ink to each woodblock, lay paper on top, and run it through The Big Tuna printing press.

"The printing demo at McColl celebrates artistic creation and forges new connections in the community," states Castonguay. He adds, "We encourage the public to attend. It's a chance to see the oldest form of printmaking still in practice today."

Like the fish, The Big Tuna mobile press is large and powerful. It can print a wood carving up to 40 by 96 inches. Most equipment its size weighs several tons, but this model is custom designed for travel. Since 2012, BIG INK has organized workshop demonstrations in partnership with museums, universities, art centers, and galleries nationwide.

Participating artists include Sarah Eller, Marissa Freedman, Samantha Rosado, Colleen Critcher, Craig Hunt, Diane Hancock, Adrian Rhodes, Ingrid Amols, Stacy Mitchell, Kristin Rothrock,

Molly Partyka, Mary Zio, Nichole Pequeño, Marianne Devoe, Abigail Carte, Emily Berger, Doris Kapner, Jennifer Garrison, Jennifer Brown, and Christopher Holston.

The event is free and open to all ages on October 21 and 2, 11 AM - 4 PM. For more information, please visit [bigink.org](http://bigink.org).