The 11th Annual Los Angeles Printers Fair
A CELEBRATION OF LETTERPRESS, BOOK ARTS & PAPER

The Los Angeles Printers Fair at the Printing Museum in Carson is the largest annual celebration of letterpress, book arts, and the paper in the West. With the backdrop of the Museum’s world-famous collection of antique presses, the LA Printers Fair annually brings together 90 artistic vendors and 2,000 visitors to explore the creative worlds of handmade books and printing.

Exhibitors include some of the finest letterpress and printmaking artists in the Southwest and beyond, offering custom posters, prints, hand-printed cards, memorabilia, decorative papers, and antiquarian books for sale. Throughout the Museum’s galleries visitors can also print their own keepsakes on antique letterpresses, have their name cast in printer’s type, make paper by hand, or even screen print their own shirt! All proceeds from the Fair go to the International Printing Museum, a non-profit institution dedicated to the heritage, preservation, and advancement of the printing arts.

FEATURED ARTIST at this year’s Printers Fair will be Jessica Spring of Springtide Press in Tacoma, WA. Since her beginnings in the famed Printers Row in Chicago in 1989, Jessica has established a national reputation as an innovative creative force in letterpress printing. Using vintage metal and wood type with antique borders and images, and printed on presses over 100 years old, Jessica’s portfolio is full of color and energy. Ranging from artist’s books, broadsides and ephemera, Jessica’s work can be found in collections and institutions around the country. Her most recent collaborative project with illustrator Chandler O’Leary is THE DEAD FEMINISTS: Historic Heroines in Living Color. This limited-edition letterpress broadside series and book features quotes by 28 historical feminists, tied to current political and social issues, each printed from hand-drawn letters and type. Jessica Spring will be exhibiting her broadsides and books during the LA Printers Fair as well as giving an Artist’s Lecture for the public on Saturday evening, October 19th.

An additional special exhibition this year will be INSIDE HOLLYWOOD: THE EARL HAYS PRESS COLLECTION. It will feature the newly-acquired rare type and printing blocks from Earl Hays Press in Sunland, the leading producer of “fakes” and “inserts” for Hollywood film and television shows for 100 years. Everything from the old newspapers seen in every Western movie or in The Godfather movies, to Astronaut Jack Nicolson on a fake Time Magazine cover, even the printing plates used to make the police decals on Beverly Hills 90210; all of these are the creative work of the iconic Hollywood printing shop known as Earl Hays Press. Over the years, the Printing Museum has worked with Earl Hays Press renting the actual working antique presses used in the films while EHP created the inserts. Now this historic visual archive of Earl Hays Press, synonymous with Hollywood and Los Angeles, will be housed and on view for the public at the Museum.

Admission to the Los Angeles Printers Fair is $10/adults and $5/under 13, and includes both days. Plenty of free parking. For more information or advance tickets: www.printmuseum.org/fair or 310-515-7166.

Digital Images for the LA Printers Fair: printmuseum.org/fairphotos