

PROJECT FLY AWAY FLY

STEFAN HOFFMANN



AIR

From July 1st to August 7th 2014, the specially developed screen printing project 'Fly away Fly' was realized at the Rankin Christian Center. Wall printing in the main Gymnasium involving the summer camp kids at the RCC was accompanied by an intensive program of workshops, a field trip to Artists Image Resource, all leading up to a culminating tournament event to inaugurate the new mural, in the gymnasium. This documentation is focusing on all the different components of the project, high lighting them with pictures and additional text information. The first set of pictures shows the workshop program. The second set gives an impression of the visit at Artists Image Resource, the third one shows the process of the wall printing in the main Gymnasium. The last part provides the final result and focuses on the opening event with tournament and additional activities.

A selection of photos and text can be found online at: http://www.stefanhoffmann.nl/fly_away_fly/foto1.html

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENTATION

FIRST PRINTING



TESTING JERSEYS



PRINTING POSTER



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FIRST PRINTING

The workshop program started with teaching basic screen printing skills. Tysheonta, one of the kids already involved in the project two years back and was quick to refresh her skills and became an important player.

Something which played an extremely important role from the very first moment of the project was the fact that we were coming back! Some of the staff still knew us even as a number of the youngsters. We could build on the groundwork we had done before and from the very first moment we found an open and welcoming atmosphere

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AGE GROUPS

In the original plan we only wanted to work with middle and high school kids. Very early in the project we decided to drop the age limit and let the younger kids join as well. Some of them turned into the most enthusiastic screen printers of the entire group!

Printing started simple with balls and hands on a number of small screens.

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WORKSHOPS WEEK 1

Cory Elder was as an intern at the Andy Warhol Museum already involved in the first Rankin project two years back. He volunteered to be my main assistant this time round.

Here, during the second workshop session of week 1 he shows Chishan the split-fountain print technique with hand cut paper stencils.



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WORKSHOPS WEEK 2

In the second week of workshops we introduced new visual elements like numbers.



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WORKSHOPS WEEK 2

To introduce the idea of the Jerseys, the kids printed retro basketball jerseys in the Woodland Hill colors.



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WORKSHOPS WEEK 2

On the left Camden Yandel my second main project assistant next to Cory Elder. Here printing the jerseys.



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WORKSHOPS WEEK 2

With the printing of the jerseys we caught for the first time the attention of the boys!



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WORKSHOPS WEEK 3

In the third week of workshops we started the printing of the poster for the basketball tournament.

We had a changing population of kids. Some were only there on specific days, some could not come for a week, but the regulars, like the two girls on the left were already able to run a printing station independently.



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WORKSHOPS WEEK 3

Ben Page, Freelance photographer and volunteer at Artists Image Resource, was documenting the entire project.

Quickly it became clear that the kids really liked the documenting part as well. Ben provided them with extra equipment and they took more than 500 photos.

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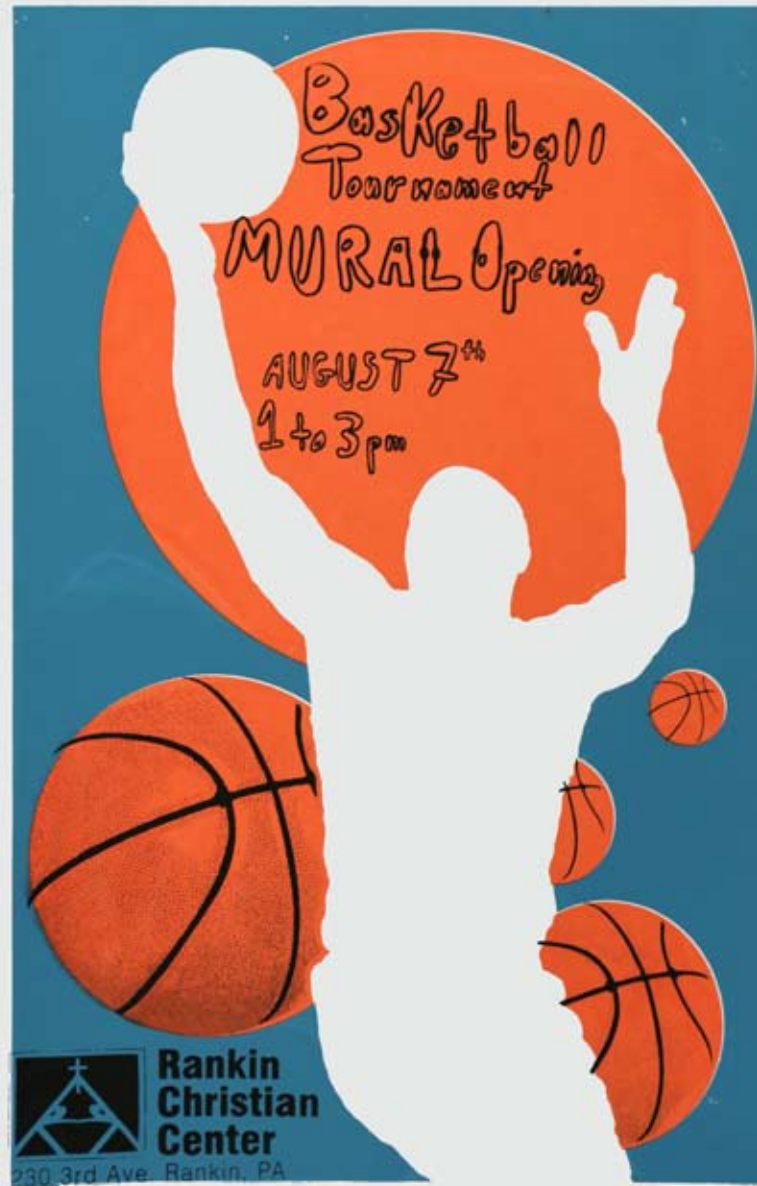
WORKSHOPS WEEK 3

'Mass production' of the posters with Jen Rockage on the left, AIR staff member and coordinator of AIR resources for the project.

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THE POSTER

The design for the poster was led by Kelly Garrett. She complied the graphic material and challenged the kids to produce the text.



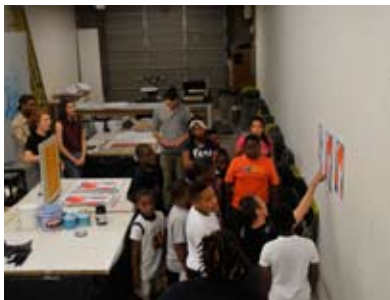
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To broaden the learning experience for the kids involved a field trip to Artists Image Resource was organized. The youngsters could explore other printmaking techniques, were let through the current exhibition and started the printing of the jerseys for the tournament

AIR FIELD TRIP



LETTERPRESS



EXHIBITION



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AIR FIELDTRIP

About 40 kids came to Air and had a short introduction at the beginning explaining the different activities planned for the day.

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LETTERPRESS

After having focused on screen printing in this project up until now, we wanted to show something new: AIR offered a perfect opportunity to give the kids a little glimpse into the history of printmaking. Especially for the occasion AIR staff made a setup with letterpress equipment.

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LETTERPRESS

Inking the letters.

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LETTERPRESS

Running the paper
through the press.

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AIR EXHIBITION

Split up into several groups AIR staff member Jen Rockage gave tours through the current exhibition.

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PRINTING

Parallel to exhibition tours, the youngsters were introduced to more complex layering of images, the possibilities of variations and all the technical aspects of burning a screen.

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PRINTING PROCESS

One of the groups focused on printing variations of the opening poster. Part of the poster edition without the black text information was used to print an image of all-time basketball star Magic Johnson.

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JERSEY PRINTING

Dry run to show kids the two layers of the jerseys to be printed on both sides.

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JERSEY PRINTING

Two printing stations and a Conveyor Dryer were set up in one of the screen print work areas at AIR.

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JERSEY PRINTING

Kids had to
patiently wait in
line for their
turn.

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JERSEY PRINTING

Here printing the
blue background
layer.

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JERSEY PRINTING

Here the black image layer with a photo of the kids themselves.

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Parallel to the workshop program with specific activities for the young participants the wall printing project in the main Gymnasium slowly gathered pace. Normal use of the gymnasium as basketball court was supposed to go on as normal as possible. Kids could still play, come closer and look, maybe help here and there. In the last two weeks, the workshop program also moved into the Gym, slowly occupying more space and engaging the kids more profoundly.

WALL PRINTING IN THE GYMNASIUM



FIRST STAGE



WORKSHOP IN GYM



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WALL PRINTING IN THE GYMNASIUM

Situation in the Gym before the start of the project. For the wall printing the back wall was chosen to allow as much of the normal activity as possible.

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WALL PRINTING IN THE GYMNASIUM

In a very natural way, the kids could follow the early growth of the piece on the wall while still playing basketball.

From the first to the last day the summer campers were free to choose whether they wanted to print or play and they moved freely from one activity to the other.

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WALL PRINTING IN THE GYMNASIUM

Kids were very willing to help with simple tasks, started to ask some questions and moved back to play.

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WALL PRINTING IN
THE GYMNASIUM

One young
documenting crew
followed the
progress on the
wall.

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WALL PRINTING IN THE GYMNASIUM

In the last two weeks one third of the Gym was cordoned off for the printing and the tables were used as printing stations.

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WALL PRINTING IN THE GYMNASIUM

More and more
printing took place
during the last
workshop session.
Not only on the
tables with fixed
work station but
also on the ground.

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WALL PRINTING IN
THE GYMNASIUM

Jen Rockage
printing a short
comic drawn by
Camden Yandel
together with some
of the kids.

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WALL PRINTING IN
THE GYMNASIUM

More printing!

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WALL PRINTING IN THE GYMNASIUM

Kids were keen to work on determining the configuration of the different figures printed on the wall.

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WALL PRINTING IN THE GYMNASIUM

Here the designated area of the wall printing with some of the figures already on the wall and others still as tests on paper to determine the final configuration.

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WALL PRINTING IN THE GYMNASIUM

in the last weeks
work in the gym
was going on on a
daily basis and
kids were also
able to print
outside of the
workshop sessions
on Tuesdays and
Thursdays.

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WALL PRINTING IN THE GYMNASIUM

The wall printing
was really a
special experience
for the youngsters
and they did a
fabulous job.

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As mentioned earlier the kids showed a great interest in photography. Their main interest was taking shots of their peers and they made some outstanding portraits. With some extra hours at the last days, new wall padding installed by RCC staff, the wall printing piece in the Gymnasium was ready for the big opening event!



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FINAL RESULT AND
OPENING EVENT

One of our young
photographers.

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FINAL RESULT AND
OPENING EVENT

Portraits.

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FINAL RESULT AND
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Portraits.

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FINAL RESULT AND
OPENING EVENT

Portraits.

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FINAL RESULT AND OPENING EVENT

Overview of the final piece with an overarching line construction referring to the functional lines of the basketball court and a combination of figures resembling the configuration of an ancient temple pediment.

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FINAL RESULT AND OPENING EVENT

The figures were photos of statues from the Zeus temple in Olympia in Ancient Greece, all-time basketball stars and photos of the kids involved in the project.

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FINAL RESULT AND OPENING EVENT

In the hallway leading to the Gymnasium we put up photo documentation of the working process of 'fly away fly'.

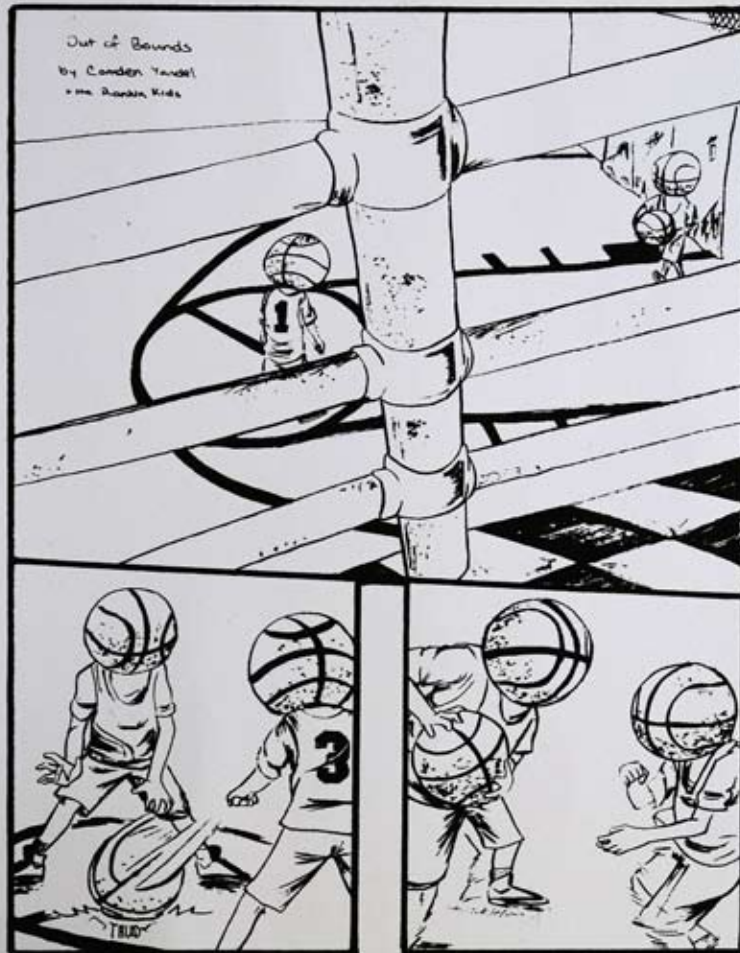
The jerseys printed at AIR were all laid out and the team players and all the participants in the project could choose one.

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FINAL RESULT AND
OPENING EVENT

Players for the tournament, all dressed up in retro-style with whiskers and wigs, are choosing their jerseys.

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FINAL RESULT AND OPENING EVENT

The earlier mentioned short comic by Camden Yandel was printed specially for the opening event.

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FINAL RESULT AND OPENING EVENT

So the younger
participants did
some coloring!

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FINAL RESULT AND
OPENING EVENT

Team captains at
the start of the
tournament.

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FINAL RESULT AND OPENING EVENT

Playing!

A very special
thanks to:

The Sprout Fund
for making this
project possible
with a HIVE Grant
for Connected
Learning!

Cory Elder
Camden Yandel
Jen Rockage
Kelly Garrett
Trevor Oneale
Ben Page

AIR and RCC staff
and the Andy Warhol
Museum

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photography:
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