

Arts Scholars Award Outcome  
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Last spring we received funding for our project, *Tutkimus: The Art and Culture of Helsinki, St. Petersburg, and Jyväskylä through the lens of collaborative Print Media*. Following a conversation with our printmaking professor, Dean Dass, we proposed the creation of a collaborative book of prints based on the theme *hamartia*. Working under this theme, which means fatal flaw, would involve registration errors, literal and theoretical flaws, and individual interpretations of the term's definition. Additionally, our proposal involved traveling to Helsinki and Jyväskylä, Finland to attend the Graphica Creativa showcase and partake in lectures and workshops at the Academy of Fine Arts. At the Academy of Fine Arts, Annu Vertanen and Adam Volpa led our group of undergraduate, graduate, and professional printmakers in reworking the first layer of prints created by the printmaking students from UVA.

Upon our arrival in Helsinki, we met up with Adam Volpa, Cameron Mankin, Annu Vertanen and the rest of the printmakers at Helsinki's Academy of Fine Arts. Dean Dass skyped into our meetings and gave his own lecture based on the idea of hamartia and how to translate the term into collaborative prints. We took part in a collaborative exercise in which we broke up into groups of ten and worked simultaneously upon the same sheet of paper. This complex drawing was repeated forty times and is now a part of our collaborative Hamartia book. On another day, Adam Volpa demonstrated his papermaking and paper staining techniques. Additionally, he gave his own lecture surrounding hamartia and what it means for an international group to work together to yield a single product. While in Helsinki we had to make a number of decisions, as a group, regarding the appearance, size, limitations, and design of our book.

During our free time in Helsinki we frequented art museums and art markets throughout the city. The Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, in particular, was extremely interesting. Almost all of its exhibits were installations that invited viewer participation and involvement. After a few days in Helsinki we traveled north to the small town of Jyväskylä in order to attend the Graphica Creativa print showcase and attend an artist's dinner that evening. The showcase featured work by Kiki Smith and Teemu Saukkonen. Massive woodcuts and lithographs covered the walls of the gallery.

Upon our return to the United States we continued working on our own layers of the prints sent over by the Finnish students. This past March a small number of students from the Academy of Fine Arts came to the University of Virginia along with Annu Vertanen and Adam Volpa. Reunited in the UVA printmaking studio we began assembling all of the prints into our Hamartia book. A few weeks later we completed the book that we proposed a year earlier.

We would like to thank all the supporters of the Miller Arts Scholars Program, with a special thanks to Sandy and Vinie Miller and Evie and Steven Colbert. Without the help

of this grant, we would not have been able to simultaneously explore a different culture and unfamiliar printmaking techniques. This exploration has culminated in a book of over three dozen collaborative prints based on a theme presented during our third year at UVa.



