

Margaret Via
Miller Arts Scholars
Mini-grant Outcome
Spring 2016

Text as Image, Type as Thought
Penland School of Crafts

Background

After graduating this May I attended Penland School of Crafts for a two-week course in their Printmaking and Letterpress studio. Penland is a nationally-renowned craft school located about fifty miles from Asheville, North - Carolina. I was able to attend Penland after receiving a work-study scholarship where I received discounted tuition in exchange for working for the school during my time there. With some additional costs still remaining even after the work-study scholarship, I applied for a mini grant through Arts Scholars to offset the additional fees. Because of the mini-grant I received, I was able to attend the two week class taught by Philadelphia based artist Marianne Dages, "Text as Image, Type as Thought".

Outcome

My time in Penland, North Carolina was such an experience. It was a really beautiful setting with wonderful weather, people, and food. The people I met at Penland held (and hold) a great deal of care for their craft, which was incredibly inspiring to see and work among.

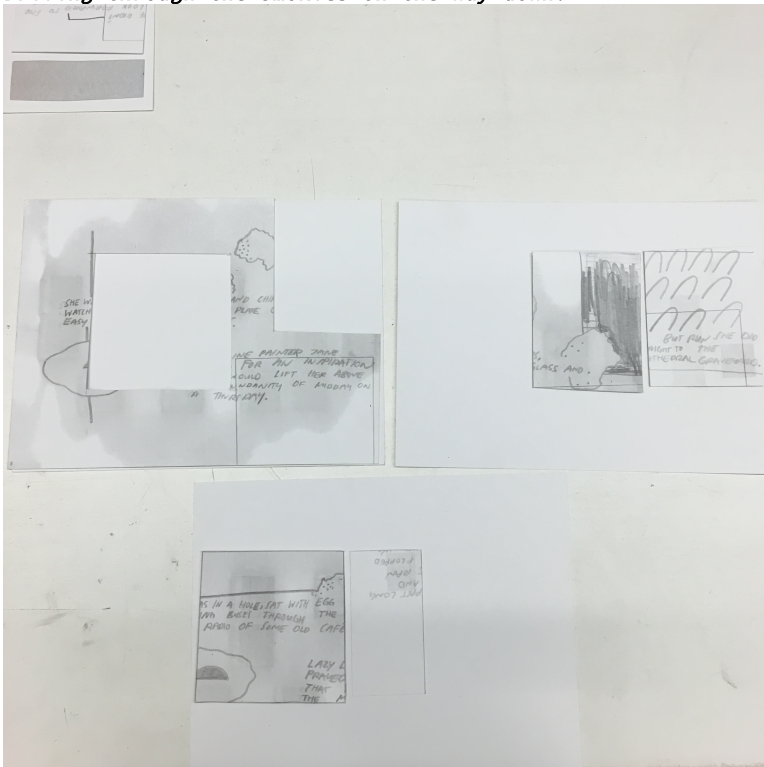
I was able to experiment with types of printmaking I had not used yet, such as polymer plates. Penland had the resources to make a polymer plate in the studio, instead of having to get plates custom made to order. I learned about less toxic printmaking clean-up practices, and was able to make work in an experimental way, often combining mediums. The environment was incredibly supportive. There was an emphasis put on process and freedom to expand one's own personal practice.

Because of the mini-grant I received I was able to only worry about travel and material costs for the course. I am incredibly thankful for the grant that I received. I learned so much even in such a short amount of time.

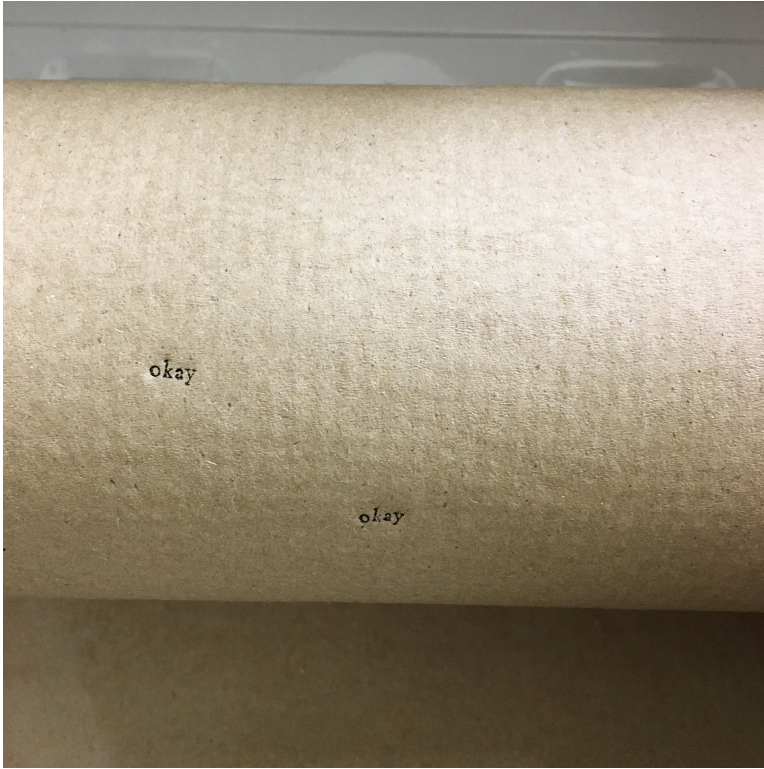
Images



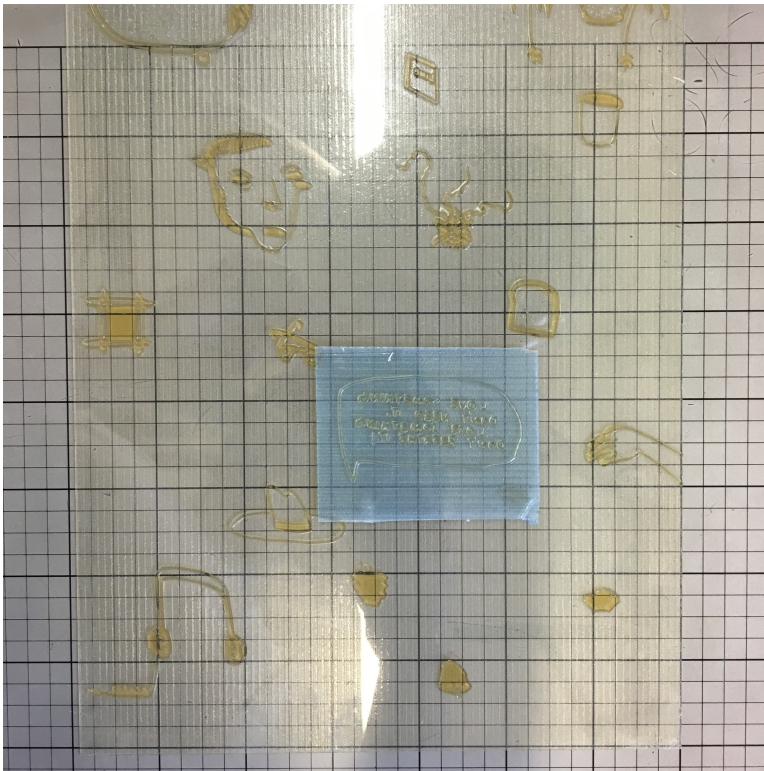
Driving through the Smokies on the way down.



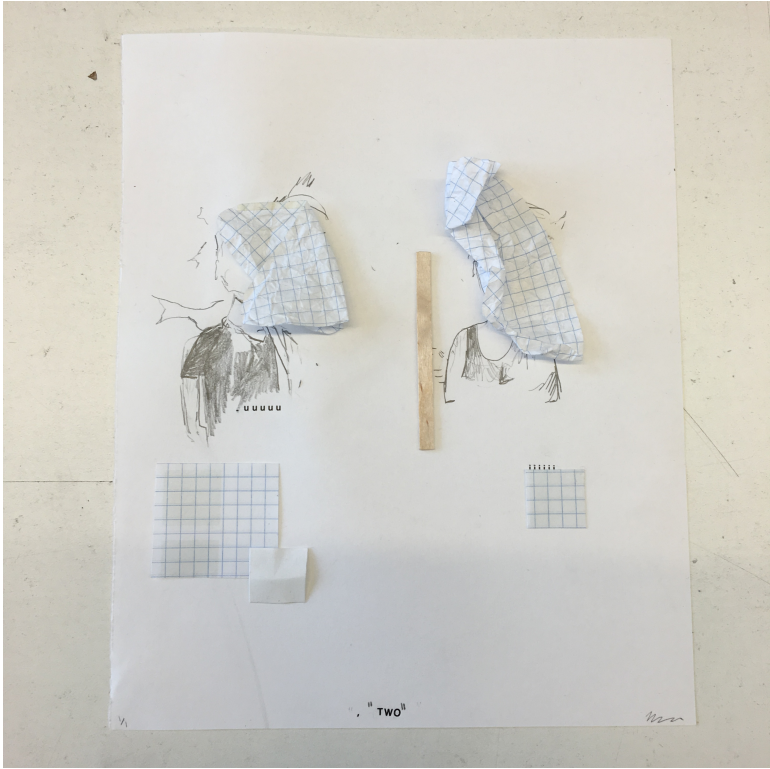
Working with transferring my pencil drawings onto the prints.



We were given the assignment to make a print where someone would find it. I letterpressed "okay okay okay" onto the outside of a paper towel dispenser.



Polymer plate I made.



Drawing relating to three dimensional objects.