

Amos Paul Kennedy Jr.

Citizen Printer

Prospectus

Letterform Archive Exhibition No. 5

June 29, 2024 - January 12, 2025

Curated by Kelly Walters

INTRODUCTION

Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr.: Citizen Printer is a major solo exhibition featuring the print works from notable printer Amos Kennedy, Jr. The exhibition includes a wide variety of printed artifacts that contain church fans, state maps, postcards and oversized posters that demonstrate his fight for civil rights. Among the works featured in the show are some of his lesser known artists' books that showcase his early start with letterpress printing and bookbinding. These early works are significant in helping to highlight the rich cultural traditions of Black printing and the importance of Black authorship.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Kelly Walters

Kelly Walters is an artist, designer and founder of the multidisciplinary design studio Bright Polka Dot. Her ongoing design research interrogates the complexities of identity formation, systems of value, and shared vernacular in and around Black visual culture. From 2015–2016, she was awarded an Association of Independent Colleges of Art & Design (AICAD) Teaching Fellowship at California College of the Arts in San Francisco. Kelly has previously taught at the Rhode Island School of Design, University of Bridgeport, University of Connecticut and Central Saint Martins. In 2021, Kelly was a Graham Foundation award recipient for her curated exhibition *With a Cast of Colored Stars*. She is the author of *Black, Brown + Latinx Design Educators: Conversations on Design and Race* (2021) and the Creative Director and Co-Editor of *The Black Experience in Design: Identity, Expression & Reflection* (2022). She holds an M.F.A in Graphic Design from the Rhode Island School of Design, a B.F.A. in Communication Design and a B.A. in Communication Sciences from the University of Connecticut. Kelly is currently the Director of the BFA Communication Design program and Assistant Professor of Communication Design at Parsons School of Design at The New School.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr.

A self-described “humble negro printer,” Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr., is internationally recognized for his type-driven messages of social justice and Black power, emblazoned in rhythmically layered and boldly inked prints made for the masses. Borrowing words from civil rights heroes such as Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, Frederick Douglass, and Sojourner Truth, Kennedy issues fearless statements on race, capitalism, history, and politics—along with plenty of witty truisms—in his exuberant, colorful, and one-of-a-kind posters and handbills. Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr. was working a corporate job when, at nearly forty, he discovered the art of letterpress printing on a tour of Colonial Williamsburg. Kennedy then devoted himself to the craft, earning an MFA in graphic design at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He now operates Kennedy Prints!, a letterpress print shop in Detroit. He has been featured in outlets like *Hyperallergic*, the *New York Times*, and the *Economist*, and he has exhibited in dozens of museums and galleries across the United States, including Poster House, the Brooklyn Public Library, the Library of Congress, and the libraries of the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

MAIN EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS

ORGANIZED BY: Letterform Archive

LETTERFORM ARCHIVE CONTACT: Jen Dao, Letterform Archive Exhibitions Manager

APPROXIMATE SIZE: 201 objects, assortment of wood type blocks, 600 square feet

Included w/ exhibition fee:

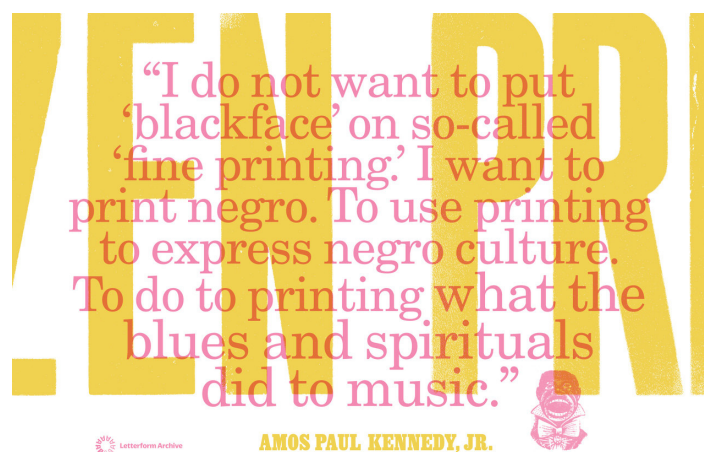
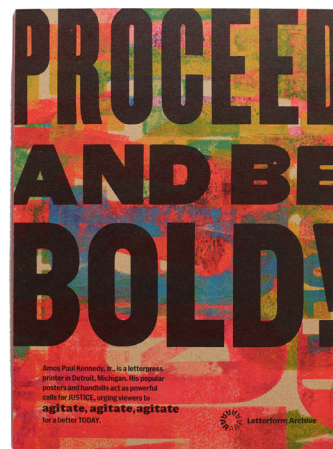
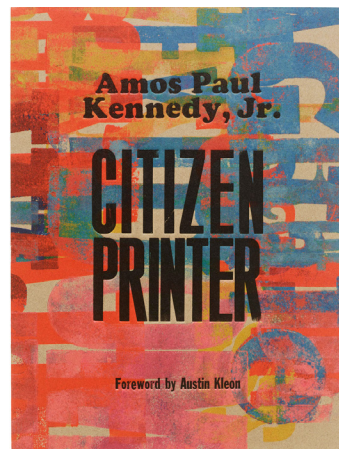
- Exhibition graphics, object labels
(digital files provided by Letterform Archive, printing and installation by the borrowing institution)
- Exhibition plans for original show at Letterform Archive

Does not include:

- Shipping objects to and from Letterform Archive
- Curatorial programming, travel and lodging expenses
- Exhibition design
- Architecture / Furniture
- Borrowing institution's insurance of exhibited material.
This should cover repair and replacement if any damage occurs to original work.
- Marketing materials, images and graphics

ACCOMPANYING BOOK

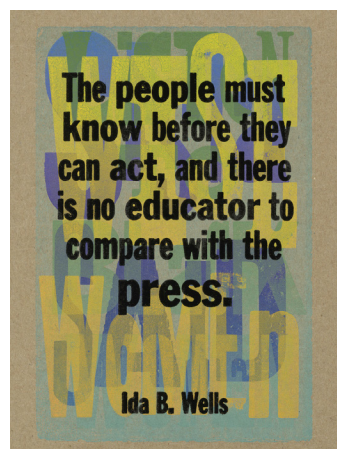
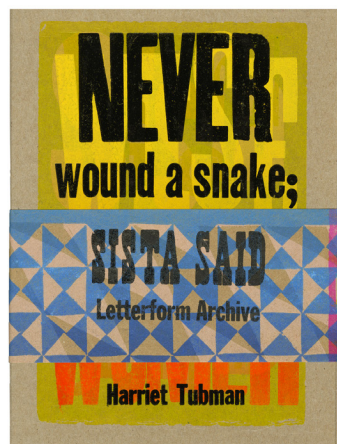
Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr.: Citizen Printer



Publisher: Letterform Archive
Publication date: September 17, 2024
ISBN: 978-1-7368633-8-1
Size: 9 × 12 inches
Printing: 4 colors throughout
Pages: 292
Format: Hardcover

ACCOMPANYING PRODUCT

**Sista Said: Words of Wisdom from Black Women in Social Justice & the Arts
(Letterpress Edition)**



Publisher: Letterform Archive Books
Publication date: Fall 2024
ISBN: 979-8-9891423-0-9
Size: 8 × 6 inches
Printing: 4 colors throughout
Format: 40 cards enclosed in a keepsake box

EXHIBITION LAYOUT

Each gallery will be organized around the following thematic clusters:

- 1) Title Wall
- 2) Ink on Paper
- 3) Civil Disobedience
- 4) Freedom
- 5) Historical Reference
- 6) Manifesto

EXHIBITION IMAGES

Citizen Printer at Letterform Archive



EXHIBITION ITEMS

[Checklist](#)

Small Scale Exhibition Option: Sista Said

SMALL SCALE EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS

ORGANIZED BY: Letterform Archive

LETTERFORM ARCHIVE CONTACT: Jen Dao, Letterform Archive Exhibitions Manager

APPROXIMATE SIZE: 100 objects, assortment of letterpress handbills

Included w/ exhibition fee:

- Object label (digital file provided by Letterform Archive, printing and installation by the borrowing institution)
- Exhibition plans for original show at Letterform Archive:
 - 47 inches high by 49 inches in width (5 rows of 20)
 - 1.5 inch spacing all around each handbill
 - installed with 4 L-pins in each corner

Does not include:

- Shipping objects to and from Letterform Archive
- Curatorial travel and lodging expenses
- Exhibition design
- Architecture / Furniture
- Borrowing institution's insurance of exhibited material.
This should cover repair and replacement if any damage occurs to original work.
- Marketing materials, images and graphics

INSTALLATION OF SISTER SAID AT THE LETTERFORM ARCHIVE READING ROOM

