

# Spudnik Press Cooperative

## Studio Fellowship Information Packet



## Mission

The Spudnik Press Cooperative Studio Fellowship is an intensive eight-month program that provides emerging artists opportunities to develop the artistic and professional skills needed to build a successful career in the arts. Key program components work in conjunction to provide mentorship, technical training, meaningful interactions with art professionals, public programming experience, and leadership opportunities. These key program components consist of the following:

- Access to professional printmaking facilities
- Weekly seminars addressing various elements of professional practices
- Leadership experience through regularly monitoring Open Studio sessions.
- Presentation opportunities through two culminating public projects.

Furthermore, as ambassadors of Spudnik Press Cooperative, Fellows play an important role in ensuring our members and studio users have a welcoming experience at our shop and also help us grow our community. The contributions Fellows make to our day-to-day operations are invaluable and help shape the future of our facilities.



## Program Overview

The Studio Fellowship provides Chicago's most committed and talented emerging artists comprehensive professional opportunities and artistic and technical support that specifically addresses the needs of printmakers. To this end, the Studio Fellowship packages many opportunities for artists to advance their artistic practice.

Fellows receive unfettered access to the professional facilities at Spudnik Press Cooperative to support the creation of a new body of print-based artwork. Through working in our shared studio and monitoring weekly Open Studio sessions, fellows are actively engaged with our community of printmakers and benefit from ongoing support and feedback from staff and peers.

The impact of the Fellowship Program is greatly expanded through a weekly professional development seminar. Throughout twenty sessions, Fellows will develop the artistic and professional skills needed to build a successful career in the arts. Topics range from self-promotion for artists to artwork documentation to business planning.

Fellows have the unique experience of planning and presenting two culminating public projects. The Studio Take Over allows the Fellows to conceptualize, organize, and implement a community-based event from beginning to end. The Crossing of the Fellows is an opportunity for incoming and outgoing Fellows to formally present their work with each other and an audience of Spudnik Press supporters.

Finally, fellows receive advanced notice and discounted registration for all Professional Practices Programs offered to our members. Opportunities include portfolio reviews with curators, off-site visits to resources and arts professionals throughout Chicago, exhibition opportunities, and more. By gifting each fellow a complimentary one-year Studio Membership, fellows can continue to take advantage of all member opportunities for the four months following their Fellowship.

## Program Components

- **Studio Monitoring Experience:** Leading one weekly Open Studio session, fellows acquire Studio Tech experience while becoming familiar with the Spudnik Press community.
- **8 Months of Keyholder Access:** 24 hour access to all facilities, tools, and equipment at Spudnik Press Cooperative and the use of one flat file drawer. Valued at \$1000.
- **Professional Development Seminar:** Intimate weekly seminars bring fellows together to address topics like self-promotion, proposal writing, and teaching artistry. 20 sessions total.
- **Annual Membership:** A comprehensive artist development package with opportunities for artists to find the audience and financial support their artistic practice requires. Valued at \$125.
- **Discounted Professional Practices Programs:** Receive early notice and discounted fees for all portfolio reviews and off-site visits.
- **Public Speaking Experience:** Fellows begin and end their fellowship with an event modeled after "PechaKucha" presentations. It is an opportunity for Fellows to present their work to each other, alumni, and supporters.
- **Public Programming Experience:** Each cohort collaborates to design and present a program at Spudnik Press Cooperative.
- **Additional Assistant Opportunities:** Fellows are invited to select an area of focus within Spudnik Press programming to assist with and gain additional professional experience.



### Overall Timeline

From day one through the end of the eight-month program, Fellows will have Keyholder access which includes 24-hour access to all facilities, tools, and equipment at Spudnik Press Cooperative and the use of one flatfile drawer.

#### Phase 1: Orientation & Onboarding (Months 1-2)

Fellows will begin the program with a public speaking experience presenting their current art practice to fellow cohort members, program alumni, and Spudnik Press supporters. Fellows begin the professional development seminar, receive equipment authorization, Open Studio monitor training, and partake in goal setting discussions with staff.

#### Phase 2: Production & Professional Development (Months 3-6)

Fellows will be in full swing and able to take advantage of all Spudnik Press facilities and programs. Weekly seminars focus on a variety of professional skills. Planning will begin for the culminating public program.

#### Phase 3: Culmination (Months 7-8)

The professional development seminar focuses on supporting fellows as they refine and compile materials for future opportunities (i.e. artwork documentation, resume, artist statement) and their culminating artist talk. Fellows strive to complete a body of print-based artwork. Overlap with incoming fellows allows graduating fellows to assist with the Open Studio Monitor training. Prior to their departure, each of the fellows will meet with Spudnik staff for an end-of-program evaluation.

### Open Studio Monitoring Details

The Open Studio program provides studio access at a reduced price and is available to all who can print independently. Each fellow will monitor one Open Studio session each week. Their responsibilities include:

- Welcoming and supporting all guests.
- Providing basic troubleshooting and printing assistance.
- Using a database to record visits; Collecting and recording payments.
- Restocking supplies; Cleaning; Organizing.
- Seeking opportunities to improve the facilities at Spudnik Press Cooperative.

In order to be able to fulfill these duties, all fellows will receive:

- General Orientation
  - Technical training on all equipment at Spudnik Press Cooperative
  - Ongoing opportunities to expand their printmaking and studio tech skills.
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### Professional Development Seminar Details

The fellowship seminar provides comprehensive professional development support through a 20 session program that incorporate:

- Goal setting and project management skills
- Statement and proposal writing
- Teaching artistry
- Off-site visits to resources throughout the city
- Financial and business planning
- Self-promotion for artists
- Exhibition planning and installation
- Art documentation
- Public speaking

The sessions will take place on Wednesdays from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. with some homework expectations. There will also be additional optional professional development opportunities offered throughout the duration of the fellowship.

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### Additional Assistant Opportunities Details

Each Fellow will work with staff to develop a personal plan for how they would like to customize their Fellowship. Through contributing 40 hours (5-6 hours/month) assisting with additional Spudnik Press activities and projects, fellows will gain professional experiences and increase their technical skills. Assistant opportunities can focus on the following areas:

- Exhibitions
- Studio maintenance
- Youth programs and outreach
- Publishing; Printing for clients
- Teaching artistry



## Eligibility

Each year, the Fellowship serves eight Chicago artists. The program has been developed to best support:

- Emerging artists, typically recent college graduates.
- Artists in transitional points in their career.
- Artists with substantial printmaking experience, such that they are able to perform all monitoring duties.
- Artists whose current art practice requires access to printmaking facilities.
- Artists who already have a dedicated and regular studio practice.
- Artists who are able to commit about 8 hours a week to the fellowship program in addition to maintaining their art practice.
- Artists whose goal is to create or sell art a primary source of income.
- Artists seeking opportunities to meet Chicago-based arts professionals.
- Artists interested in building meaningful connections with a creative community.

**Inquiries regarding the Studio Fellowship  
can be directed to:**

**Jess Christy**  
**jess@spudnikpress.org**  
**312-563-0302**

## Mission

To provide facilities and services available to artists who need a place to create or exhibit their original artwork, especially those who cannot obtain access to traditional printmaking facilities and exhibition spaces because of financial or other limitations.

To provide education in printmaking practices through uniting professional artists with a diverse community of emerging artists, established artists, youth, and adults.

## Vision

Founded on the premise that art should be a democratic and empowering medium, Spudnik Press Cooperative is committed to being an approachable and affordable print shop; a space where professional printmakers merge with aspiring students; a space that encourages collaboration and the sharing of ideas.

At Spudnik Press, artists create and use printed materials to further culture and engage with their community. Through sharing materials, equipment, and studio space, artists are also sharing technical skills, practical knowledge, and creative processes. By pooling resources and creative problem solving, artists at Spudnik Press are able to create a space that is beyond the means of solo emerging artists.

By extending our programming to include exhibitions, classes, free workshops, and drawing groups, we are able to reach beyond the print community and engage with the community as a whole.



1821 W HUBBARD, SUITE 302  
CHICAGO, IL 60622

312-563-0302

**BUSINESS HOURS:**  
Tuesday - Friday  
12:00 - 5:00 pm

**OPEN STUDIO HOURS:**  
Mondays and Thursdays  
6:00 - 10:00 pm  
Fridays and Saturdays  
1:00 - 5:00 pm

[www.spudnikpress.org](http://www.spudnikpress.org)

**This program is made possible with support from:**



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