

## Curt W. Labitzke

Curt Labitzke was born in Queens, New York, 1958. He first learned to draw and paint by apprenticing with his father who was a painter/graphic designer in New York City. He received his MFA from The University of Notre Dame in 1984 with a focus on printmaking, painting and drawing.

Labitzke's work is primarily influenced by his interest in using the portrait and posture of the figure as a means of conveying an implied narrative. These large-scale images encourage a wide variety of interpretations that often provoke empathy for the subject within the viewer. His work is also informed by an ongoing interest in art history to include Roman portrait busts, Renaissance drawing, Neo-classical painting and the world of contemporary photography.

For the past fifteen years Labitzke has traveled extensively throughout Europe, leading study abroad groups for the University of Washington to Rome, Florence, and Venice Italy, as well as Madrid, Barcelona and Leon, Spain. The work, romantic and at times melancholy, is inspired by numerous sources including dilapidated ancient wall frescos, medieval tempera panels, drawings from the quattrocento and a variety of restoration projects experienced while traveling throughout Italy and Spain. His color palate is reminiscent of the Rococo period, often soft and atmospheric, with suggestions of the opulence of gilded medieval and byzantine panel paintings.

Using the intaglio printmaking process the prints are made from traditional copper plates and contemporary plexiglass surfaces. The plates are drawn from studies made in grease crayon and are created using etching, dry point, engraving and stippling techniques. All prints are typically sent through the press a minimum of 4-6 times with hand coloring and collage introduced in between the various printed layers, thus imbedding the subject into the background space. The images are often worked from the front and back of the sheet of paper taking full advantage of random marks and colors migrating through the sheet from one side to the other. By using multiple washes of translucent color and patches of paper collage an ethereal space is created and then contradicted by the physicality of the paper surface. Holes in the paper deny illusion and are suggestive of those found in antique books, prints and drawings.

All prints are made on a variety of archival/acid-free collaged printmaking papers using Charbonnel etching inks creating an active surface reinforcing the object like quality of the image. Hand coloring and collage work is done with entirely acid free materials including watercolor, pencil, sumi ink wash, acrylic paints and medium.

Currently, Curt Labitzke resides in Seattle, Washington, and is the Chair of Printmaking and Interdisciplinary Visual Arts at The University of Washington, where he has taught since 1984.

## Education

- 1984 MFA, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, Printmaking and Painting  
1982 BFA, West Virginia University, WV, Concentrations: Printmaking and Painting

## Teaching

- 1991-Present University of Washington, Seattle, Associate Professor, Printmaking  
1982 University of Washington, Seattle, Assistant Professor, Printmaking

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 *A Shared Soul. Portrait of Spain - Palacio del conde Luna, Leon, Spain*  
2014 *A New Collection:*  
*Etchings by C. Labitzke at La Bottega dell'Acquaforte, Laguna Beach, CA*  
2012 *Journeys.* Seattle Art Museum Gallery. Seattle, WA  
2011 *Traces.* PrintZero Gallery/Studio. Seattle, WA  
2011 *Expressions: New Prints and Paintings.* The Island Gallery, Bainbridge, WA  
2011 *New Prints.* Edmonds Community College Gallery. Edmonds, WA  
2009 *Works on Paper.* Mithun Archetectural Design, Seattle, WA  
2008 *Passione: Infinate and Eternal.* Marni Muir Gallery, Seattle, WA  
2004 *Roma Works, Curt Labitzke.* Rome Center, University of Washington, Rome, Italy

## Selected Invitational Exhibitions

- 2013 *Artist's Choice.* Seattle Art Museum Gallery. Seattle, WA  
2012 *Curt Labitzke & Kim Van Someren, Recent Prints.* Everett Community College, Everett WA  
2011 *University of Washington Faculty Exhibition.* Jacob Lawrence Gallery, Seattle, WA  
2010 *Rome as Studio.* Group Exhibition. Temple University. Rome, Italy  
2009 *The Figure.* Marni Muir Gallery, Seattle, WA  
2007 *Group Faculty Exhibition,* Jacob Lawrence Gallery, Seattle, WA  
2004 *Group Faculty Exhibition,* Jacob Lawrence Gallery, Seattle, WA  
2003 *Fables,* Tyler School of Art, Rome, Italy.  
*Fables,* Jacob Lawrence Gallery, Seattle, WA  
2002 *Fables,* Centre pour l'Art et la Culture, Aix-en-Provence, France  
*Group Faculty Exhibition,* Jacob Lawrence Gallery, School of Art, UW  
2001 *The Four Seasons* Group Portfolio Project, , Printed in an edition of 16, University of Washington

*Ports of Call*, Group Portfolio Project, Printed in an edition of 30, University of Alaska, University of Washington, University of Southern California, University of Oregon

*Print Exhibition and Exchange*, Sister Cities, Tashkent, Soviet Union, Seattle, WA

## Selected Public Collections

Pacific Ballet, Seattle, Washington

Irkutsk Art Museum, Irkutsk, Siberia, USSR

University of the Philippines, School of Fine Arts, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Emerald Realty, Lynnwood, WA

University of Taskent, Tashkent, Soviet Union

Central University, Ex Academia de San Carlos, Mexico City, Mexico

Escuela de Arte Universidade Catolica de Chile, Santiago, Chile

Taller de Leo Acosta, Mexico City, Mexico

Special Collections, Suzzalo Library, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

The Museum of International Contemporary Art, Salvador, Bahia, Brasil

University of Notre Dame, School of Art, Notre Dame, IN

University of Hawaii, Hilo, HI

NIAA Galleries, Munster, IN

Greenville Travel Agency, Greenville, DE

Carpenter Paper Company, Grand Rapids, MI

Rare Books and Manuscripts Collection, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

## Representation

**The Seattle Art Museum Gallery. Seattle, WA 2011-Present**

**The Island Gallery. Bainbridge, WA 2011-Present**

**La Bottega Dell' Acquaforte. Laguna Beach, CA 2013**

LA BOTTEGA DELL'ACQUAFORTE  
1590 S. COAST HWY # 4, LAGUNA BEACH, CA 92651 T.949.497.6690  
[italianetchings@yahoo.com](mailto:italianetchings@yahoo.com)  
[www.italianetchings.com](http://www.italianetchings.com)