

An Artist Among Us!

TPA Post SC member Amanda Verbeck is living her dream. In addition to being an artist, Amanda is the master printer and publisher at Pele Prints in St. Louis, Missouri. She is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and has 18 years of experience as a printmaker. Amanda started Pele Prints in 2006. Work from Pele has been exhibited widely, both nationally and internationally, and the prints can be found in numerous corporate and private collections.

In addition to her thriving business, Amanda finds time to volunteer at numerous community and TPA activities.

When did you first start getting into art?

I can't remember not being into art. Some of my earliest memories are of drawing and creating. I was very lucky to have a mom who encouraged and supported my creativity.

Did you study art?

Yes, in addition to art classes in school, I started studying art at a young age with programs at the Saint Louis Art Museum and COCA. I continued my art studies all the way through college, where I graduated with a Bachelors of Fine Art from Washington University in St. Louis.

How did you decide to start your own business?

After working as an assistant with several local presses, I knew that being a collaborative printmaker is where my passion lay. I'm very fortunate to have two amazing role models (my mom, Maria Verbeck, and my mentor, Maryanne Simmons), both successful female business owners. It was a natural step for me to open my studio, Pele Prints.

What is your favorite part of your job?

There are so many things that I love about what I do. But one of my favorite things is that I get to collaborate with so many different artists. Being an artist is often a very solitary experience. When two creative minds can work together to make art, it's extremely rewarding to see the results.

How many shows do you do a year?

Pele Prints usually exhibits at two major art fairs each year. These are large-scale international fairs with collectors from all over the world. We have participated in fairs in Chicago, New York, Miami, and Houston. We also have periodic gallery exhibitions throughout the country, and even an exhibition in Indonesia!

Pele Prints is a collaborative fine art printmaking studio dedicated to creating limited edition prints and original works of art. At Pele Prints, we take a non-traditional approach to each project and encourage experimentation. Here artists are free to explore their ideas in the studio, using multiple print processes as a jumping-off point. While the print medium is the primary focus, finished pieces may also include three-dimensional components, collage, handwork, and/or various other elements. The goal is to create a unique body of work



Amanda Verbeck at Art on Paper in NY, (art collaborations: Ken Wood, Alicia LaChance, and Benjamin Guffee)

that displays the curiosity, learning, and constant discovery exemplified in the collaborative process at its best.



Xochi Solis, The way we look to a distant constellation XV, 2016, 50"h x 40"w, printed and published by Pele Prints.



Printing at Pele Prints with artist Carly Kurka.