

# 87FLORIDA

# CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THE CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART AND COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN PRESENT 2011 PRINT PORTFOLIO

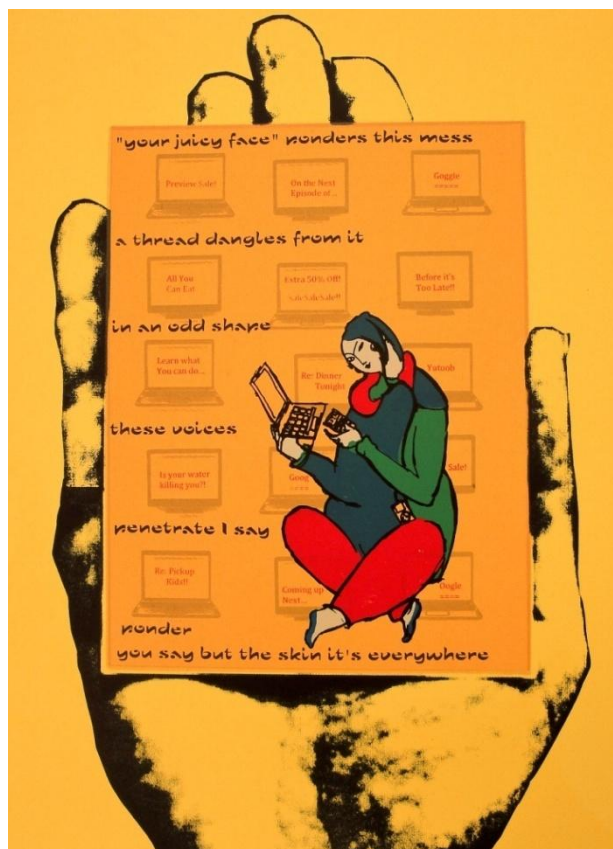
WASHINGTON, D.C. – This spring, the Printmaking Department at the Corcoran College of Art + Design will debut its **26th annual Printmaking Portfolio at the urban art space 87FLORIDA**. For more than a quarter century, the Corcoran’s print portfolio exhibition has showcased the artistic vision and printmaking skills of Corcoran’s faculty and students in the Master of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, and Continuing Education programs.

This year’s theme, *Distracted Living*, is brought to life through a collaborative effort between Corcoran artists and poets in the D.C. community and beyond. Working together, the creative partners interpret *Distracted Living* both visually and through the written word. The resulting prints will embody a shared creative vision realized through a wide range of traditional and experimental printmaking techniques, including screenprint, lithograph, etching, letterpress, relief, and digital.

“This year’s theme, *Distracted Living*, feels appropriate due to the current social and economical conditions we either embrace or endure in the 21st century,” said Elizabeth Klimek, portfolio coordinator at the Corcoran College of Art + Design. “The collaboration with local poets has added a new voice to each work, developing a unique discourse.”

The exhibition will be on view at 87FLORIDA in Washington, D.C. from **April 1–22, 2011**. The public is invited to attend an **opening reception with the artists on April 1 from 6 to 9 p.m.** and a literary reading by Corcoran faculty, students, and local poets on Friday, April 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. at 87FLORIDA.

The exhibition will be open to the public on Saturdays from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. 87FLORIDA is located at 87 Florida Ave., NW Washington, D.C. 20001.



## ABOUT THE PRINT PORTFOLIO



The annual Print Portfolio offers positive opportunities for Corcoran student artists. The exhibition at 87FLORIDA is an opportunity for the art community and collectors to view student work in a professional setting. Portfolios from previous years have been purchased for private and public collections including the Library of Congress and the Corcoran Gallery of Art. Organized for many years by printmaking coordinator Georgia Deal, this year's portfolio project has been coordinated by Elizabeth Klimek, lithography instructor at the Corcoran. For more than 25 years the annual print portfolio has showcased the work of MA, BFA, and Continuing Education students and their instructors. This year, 31 students and faculty have been involved in every aspect of the production of the portfolio – from choosing a theme, editing the prints, designing and producing the title sheet, portfolio case and invitation, planning the reception, assisting the gallery with hanging the show, and manning the gallery for public viewing.

Both the April 1 reception and April 22 literary reading provide an opportunity for visitors to meet the student and faculty artists and to learn about the prints from the artists themselves—opening a window into their creative processes. For more information, please visit [www.corcoran.edu](http://www.corcoran.edu).

## ABOUT THE PROJECT DIRECTOR, ELIZABETH KLIMEK

Elizabeth Klimek is an instructor of printmaking at the Corcoran College of Art + Design in Washington, D.C. and a working artist living in Alexandria, VA, who shows her work nationally and internationally. She received her BFA from West Virginia University and her MFA from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Klimek is currently serving as the secretary of the board of SGC International, printmaking organization and in the fall of 2009 she taught in Italy for the University of Georgia's Cortona Program. Her most recent exhibitions include *Elizabeth Klimek: Works on Paper* at the Caos on F Gallery in Washington, D.C.; the 2008 SGC International Traveling Exhibition; Washington Project for the Arts Exhibition and Auction; Clemson National Print and Drawing Exhibition; and the Northern Print Biennial in London, UK.

## ABOUT 87FLORIDA

87FLORIDA is unique urban art space which since 2006 has pro bono hosted nearly 20 events of paint, sculpture, original live music, digital projection, and handmade books and featured D.C. Jazz Festival performances as well as this year's Corcoran Print Portfolio show. Artist-owned studio, exhibit and performance space, its events offer a full arts experience: guests viewing work on the main exhibit floor are welcome to explore works in progress in upstairs

artist work space, as well as a basement experimental salon featuring sculptural book objects. This spring, it will also show work produced in the Corcoran's MA Art and the Book program. 87FLORIDA sits in the rapidly-developing and arts-rich Bloomingdale neighborhood of the nation's capital, near both the O Street Studios and local poetry performance site Big Bear Café.

## **ABOUT THE CORCORAN**

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869 as Washington's first and largest nonfederal museum of art. It is known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture and the decorative arts. Founded in 1890, the Corcoran College of Art + Design is Washington's only four-year college of art and design offering BFA degrees in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Fine Art Photography, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Photojournalism; a BA in Art Studies; a five-year Bachelor of Fine Arts/ Master of Arts in Teaching (BFA/MAT); an AFA in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Photography; and MA degrees in Art and the Book, Art Education, Exhibition Design, Interior Design, Master of Arts in Teaching, and New Media Photojournalism. The College's Continuing Education program offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for children and adults and draws more than 2,500 participants each year.

Image page one: Shahrzad Jalinous, "Handful," 2011. Acrylic on Paper (silkscreen).

Image page two: Alessandra Echeverri.

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