

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 18, 2013

CONTACT: DAMON ARHOS, GALLERY DIRECTOR
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Washington Printmakers Gallery Presents
Michael Hagan
Tessellations, Tentacles and Tattoo



Michael Hagan
Caught (in Bad Romance) | Screenprint | 2013

2 – 27 October

Artist's Reception from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, 6 October

Conversations with the Printmaker from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, 12 October

Running Concurrently in The Press Room:

Susan Carney | *Monotypes: Responding to the Plate*

Silver Spring, MD — Washington Printmakers Gallery (WPG) is pleased to announce artist Michael Hagan's exhibit *Tessellations, Tentacles and Tattoo*. His work explores new, durable, synthetic printmaking surfaces; odd hues; and the use of simple scrolls to remove barriers between art and viewer.

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“A printmaking matrix – such as a block, stone, plate or screen – is a complex tool, the essential purpose of which is to acquire and hold pigmented material and apply it to a substrate like paper,” Hagan said. “This is exactly equivalent to the way a brush can be used to acquire and hold paint and apply it to canvas. My matrix – or stencil – is my brush.

“Visually apparent halftones in my prints (dots, lines and custom shapes) are metaphors for commercial printmaking, for current culture, and for new technology. Halftones carry tonal changes in the printed images – and, when apparent, are also intrinsically interesting repeated forms.”

Hagan holds that tessellations are the best examples of repetition, which is both critical to composition and a primary strength of printmaking. He combines traditional printmaking with new technologies to efficiently and precisely employ custom halftones, textures and patterns. As well, he explores unique, flat, complex and “exploded” colors. His work references other printmaking methods (such as textiles and woodblock printing), historic printing processes, and diverse cultural contexts (such as Japanese ukiyo-e prints, art of the Renaissance, and pop art).

Mike Hagan is a Washington, D.C. native who received his Certificate in Printmaking from Corcoran College of Art in 1995. Since then, he has had numerous solo exhibitions at Washington Printmakers Gallery and shown regionally at the Corcoran Gallery and Gallery 10. His prints are in the collections of the Corcoran, Gallery K estate, and the U.S. Library of Congress, as well as numerous private collections. All the proceeds from Mr. Hagan’s print sales go directly to [Health Volunteers Overseas](#), a Washington, DC non-profit organization improving global health through education.

About Washington Printmakers Gallery

With nearly 30 years in the greater DC metro area, Washington Printmakers Gallery is a cooperative print gallery located in the Pyramid Atlantic Art Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. The gallery is the area’s primary source for contemporary, artist-pulled fine art prints. Its artist members, exceptional local and national printmakers, exhibit regularly in the organization’s group and solo shows. For more information – including gallery history and hours of operation – please visit www.washingtonprintmakers.com.

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