

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**ILSSA CONVERGENCE in Asheville, NC
Exhibitions, Festival, Film Screening, Walking Tour & Member Meeting**

ASHEVILLE, NC - July 5-7, 2013

The inaugural **ILSSA Convergence** will bring Impractical Laborers from over 28 states and 5 countries to Asheville, NC for a series of exhibitions, a festival of practicing, a film screening, a walking tour and a member meeting, all in celebration of the fifth anniversary of this art project and membership organization. Events will take place at **Asheville BookWorks, Harvest Records, and The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design**, among others, from **July 5-7, 2013**. A full schedule is listed below.

Impractical Labor in Service of the Speculative Arts (ILSSA) is an art project and membership organization for those who make experimental or conceptual work with obsolete technology. ILSSA functions as a Union, fostering community, solidarity, and peer review, and as a Research Institute, supporting new ideas, communications, and resources.

Impractical Labor is a protest against contemporary industrial practices and values. Instead it favors independent workshop production by antiquated means and in relatively limited quantities. Economy of scale goes out the window, as does the myth that time must equal money. Impractical Labor seeks to restore the relationship between a maker and her tools; a maker and her time; a maker and what she makes. The process is the end, not the product. Impractical Labor is idealized labor: **the labor of love**.

ILSSA members are a diverse group, working in calligraphy, fibers, historic photographic processes, comic books, typewriters, analogue video, vacuum tubes, bookbinding, pirate radio, ceramics, heirloom farming, to name just a few. To date, we've had 200 members from 28 states and 5 countries, 100 of which are currently active.

Join us on **July 5-7, 2013**, as we celebrate our fifth year and chart our future at the inaugural **ILSSA Convergence** in Asheville, NC.

AS MANY HOURS AS IT TAKES!

<http://www.impractical-labor.org/>

SCHEDULE

JULY 5, 1:00-5:00 pm
Impractically Asheville
Self-Guided Walking Tour

Location: Various

Visit the shops and studios of local Impractical Laborers, including 7 Ton Letterpress, Asheville BookWorks, The DryGoods Shop, Harvest Records, and Small Terrain, among others. Printed guides will be available at all participating venues.

Free and open to the public.

JULY 5, 5:00-7:00 pm

State of the ILSSA Union

Exhibition Opening and Book Release with Artists' Talk at 6 pm

Location: Asheville BookWorks

<http://www.ashevillebookworks.com/>

In our fourth year as Impractical Laborers, we felt it was time to survey the State of the ILSSA Union, as a means for self-assessment and with the intention of better serving each other. To that end, the ILSSA Co-Operators mailed a survey to all members, asking each to assess her or his labor conditions as an art worker. This exhibition features the 42 returned surveys, letterpress printed and answered with loving care, as well as an edited compilation of the results: a collective and contradictory voice recounting the State of the ILSSA Union. Exhibition will be on display from July 5-August 31, 2013.

Free and open to the public.

JULY 5, 7:00-9:00 pm

ILSSA Hands & Tools

Exhibition Opening

Location: Harvest Records

<http://www.harvest-records.com/>

This exhibition of ILSSA Hands & Tools will be on display through the month of July.

Free and open to the public.

JULY 6, 10:00 am-5:00 pm

ILSSA Working Group

ILSSA Member Meeting and Roundtable Discussions

Location: Center for Craft, Creativity & Design (CCCD)

<http://www.craftcreativitydesign.org/>

Join us for our first ever ILSSA member meeting! Roundtable Discussions will address themes that emerged from our State of the ILSSA Union survey, including: Union as Model, Art-Craft, Obsolete Technology, Belongingness and Time. The Gallery at The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design will provide a picturesque project space, with the ILSSA Library, a collective collection of resources, on-hand. Our goal will be to consider the results of our survey and brainstorm ways to better serve each other. Our efforts will be documented and left for visitors to consider in the exhibition space, on display through July 24, 2013. Lunch will be provided and we will celebrate our achievements with a gallery reception at days end, featuring locally brewed refreshments generously provided by CCCD.

Current ILSSA members only. Join ILSSA at <http://www.impractical-labor.org/>.

JULY 6, 5:00-7:00 pm

ILSSA Working Group

Exhibition Opening and Reception

Location: The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design (CCCD)

<http://www.craftcreativitydesign.org/>

For this exhibition, The Center will see its galleries turned into a project space as ILSSA members converge for their first conference. This 'Working Group' will occur on July 6th and the documentation of their meeting as well as the ILSSA Library will be on display through the end of the month. Exhibition will be on display at from July 6-24, 2013.

Free and open to the public.

JULY 6, TBA

Heroines of Handmade Cinema

Mechanical Eye Microcinema Film Screening

Location: BeBe Theater

<http://mechanicaleyecinema.org/>

A screening of handmade films brought to you by our fellow Impractical Laborers at Mechanical Eye Microcinema.

Free and open to the public.

JULY 7, 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Festival to Plead for Skills

ILSSA Holiday of Practicing

Location: Asheville BookWorks

<http://www.ashevillebookworks.com/>

Each year on the seventh day of the seventh month, ILSSA celebrates its own version of The Festival to Plead for Skills. The festival is derived from the Chinese holiday of Qi Xi and the Japanese festival of Tanabata, in which celebrants wish for the betterment of their own craftsmanship. Instead of wishing, the ILSSA festival is a holiday of PRACTICING. Join us as we observe this holiday by practicing a skill: using a tool, trying a method, honing a technique. We imagine Impractical Laborers spanning the continents, practicing together in observance of the holiday. Join us at Asheville BookWorks or practice wherever you may find yourself on July 7th!

Small donation suggested. Space limited. Pre-registration required, (828) 255-8444.

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