

It is of utmost importance that artists such as myself have studio space available in which to create. Bookbinding and letterpress printing not only take up large amounts of space, but also tend to be quite messy in general. Since moving to a new apartment in January of this year, I have had neither the time nor the drive to organize my studio the way I would like it. There have been a few minor setbacks and obstacles since the relocation:

- **Time** – First and foremost, this is the biggest obstacle. Full time school, full time work, and family events have caused this project's delay.
- **Space** – The new studio is considerably smaller than the last, and without closet or storage space.
- **Surfaces** – It was difficult to find the appropriate cabinets and tables for the letterpress and paper cutter.
- **Me** – Although my desire for efficient and organized space is strong, it is often beaten into submission by my propensity for laziness and my scatty nature.

There is an upside to all of this,

however:

- The new print cabinet is an antique banquet, which has ample drawer space, shelves, and a space in the middle that is perfect for adding brackets to hold my letterpress job cases, thus making them drawers, rather than being stacked on the floor. It is also at proper working height so I don't have to slouch.
- The 300 lb. paper cutter I bought last year is finally out of my truck and in the studio, although it needs a little maintenance. Also, a proper table has finally been built by two handy and resourceful young gentlemen.
- The studio is located right next to the kitchen, providing easy sink and snack access.
- With an overhead light, two wall sconces, and one large window, there is plenty of light to work under, day & night.

It is difficult to operate in such a small space – both bookbinding and letterpress printing require large work surfaces, as well as the use of several small tools. Different work areas have been set up in the studio to encourage order and keep things in their place.



STUDIO
RELOCATION
2011 - PHASE II:
ORGANIZE

QUIET HAND PRESS STUDIO GOALS:

1. To have a fully functioning letterpress and bookmaking studio by the end of the summer.
2. To organize all materials so they are accessible, visible for browsing, and easy to put away at the end of each project.
3. To set up a basic system of organization to facilitate an optimum work environment, and to use this system to maintain an efficient, streamlined work environment.
4. To not only have space for work and storage of supplies, equipment, and materials, but also to have a clean place to house completed works.
5. To make the studio a place where I *want* to spend time, thus perpetuating my desire to create.

REFERENCE AREA:

Possibly the most important area of an artist's studio is her collection of references. Although only consisting of two bookshelves (one in the studio and one in the living room), I do have substantial reference collection. Included in the collection are over 12 books on technique, as well as numerous books on specific artists, movements, philosophy, poetry, literature, the occult, history, and basically anything that would educate and/or inspire me. The collection will continue to grow throughout my lifetime. Some considerable weeding was done during Relocation Phase I: Moving, but it was more for relevance rather than space. The collection also includes printed materials and lexicon of imagery.



LETTERPRESS AREA:

I print on a Kelsey Excelsior 5"x8" tabletop letterpress. For printing, I have over 5 complete sets of lead type, some various picture blocks, wood type, a selection of rubber-based inks and varnishes, cleaning supplies, and other tools.



BOOKMAKING & DRAWING AREA:

This is the most difficult area to organize. A drafting table and stool, small bookshelf, and paper rack take up almost half of the room. In several repurposed cigar boxes and file boxes I have collections of hundreds of small tools and writing utensils, rulers, scraps of paper, paper ephemera, feathers, ribbons, journals and sketch books, adhesives, paints, and numerous sheets of decorative paper and bookcloth. All materials are useful, though not often *used*, thus creating a thin line between things I should and should not keep.