



Estuary Arts Centre Charitable Trust

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"Pressing Matters: Printmaking in Focus" Exhibition, Pop-up Print Lab and Education Programme 2026

02 to 29 March 2026

Weekend activations:

Friday 13, Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 March

Friday 20, Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 March

POP UP PRINT LAB PROJECT

Project Title: "Pressing Matters: Printmaking in Focus"

Pop-up Print Lab

Project Overview:

In an era where digital technologies often overshadow traditional methods, the timeless art of printmaking has struggled to retain its revered status. Our project, "Pressing Matters" seeks to illuminate the intricate craftsmanship and intrinsic value of original printmaking through an immersive educational experience.

Objectives:

The core objective of this initiative is to bridge the gap between public perception and the authentic complexity of printmaking. By showcasing the laborious process, sophisticated techniques, and historical significance behind printmaking, this project aims to reinvigorate appreciation for this art form. Through hands-on interaction, participants will gain insight into the meticulous skill, extensive time commitment, and specialized equipment involved in creating high-quality prints.

Artistic Approach:

The project will feature a comprehensive exhibition as part of the Art of Printmaking programme at Estuary Arts Centre from 28 October to 23 November 2025. The centrepiece will be a dynamic Pop-up Print Lab, wherein we will invite various print artists to set up a studio and print in the gallery space. Over the course of the exhibition, visitors will witness the transformation of a print as the artist offers a transparent view into each stage of the process. These live demonstrations will serve as a tangible illustration of the printmaking process, highlighting the artistry and precision required.

Educational Component:

Interactive engagement will be a cornerstone of this project. Attendees will have the opportunity to observe the printmaking process in real-time, ask questions, and gain firsthand knowledge of the craft. Additionally, we will conduct a series of workshops throughout the exhibition, designed to encourage participants to explore printmaking themselves. These workshops will demystify the techniques involved and provide practical experience, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of the medium.

Impact:

By bridging the gap between the technical and artistic aspects of printmaking, this project aspires to elevate the status of printmaking within the contemporary art landscape. Through direct engagement and educational programming, we will cultivate a renewed respect for the craft and inspire a new generation of printmakers and art enthusiasts who see the value in original prints

**Expression of interest to take part in
"Pressing Matters: Printmaking in Focus" Exhibition,
Pop-up Print Lab 2026**

Key Dates:

Exhibition and Pop up Print Lab setup: Monday 02 March and Tuesday 03 March 2026

Exhibition and Pop-up Print Lab Dates: From Wednesday 04 March to Sunday 29 March 2026

Exhibition Opening Function: Either Friday evening or Saturday afternoon (to confirm)

Activation weekends: Friday 13, Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 March

Friday 20, Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 March

Cost: FREE to exhibit and free to use Pop-up Lab.

Commission: 25%

The Exhibition will be on display in the two downstairs galleries (One and Two) of Estuary Arts Centre. The Pop-up Print Lab will take place in gallery Three. In conjunction with the exhibition and Pop-up Lab there will be a series of hands-on workshops, artists talks and professional development sessions which could be delivered either in-person or online over the activation weekends.

Opportunities

- For printmakers working in any print medium to display their work in this group exhibition
- Artists to tutor and be part of the workshop and artist talks programme
- Printmakers to make use of the Pop-up Print Lab to work live in the gallery and to education the public.
- Industry specialists from the printmaking and art sector to share their product knowledge and experience with practising and would-be printmakers.

Pressing Matters Printmaking Exhibition dates: 04 to 29 March

An exhibition showcasing the wide and diverse range of contemporary printmaking practice by New Zealand printmakers and artists.

Talks and workshops: Over the activation weekends

1. Artist talks about their artwork, process inspiration
2. Workshops by printmakers in a variety of printing media
3. Professional development seminars by industry specialists.

If you are an artist who would like to be involved in this printmaking exhibition programme and Pop-up Lab, please fill out this form and return to:

manager@estuaryarts.org, mail to 214B Hibiscus Coast Highway, Orewa 0931

COMPLETED forms must be received by 30 January 2026

Name: _____

Surname: _____

Email: _____

Mobile: _____

How would you like to be involved? (please tick)

Exhibitor

Tutor

Artist talk

Demonstrate/work in the Pop-up Print Lab

