THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SPARK BOX STUDIO
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Thanks for selecting Spark Box Studio as your temporary studio space. We are very excited to have you come work, research, and experiment at our studio. We hope that we can offer you everything you are looking for in a residency. Creating an inspiring environment is an extremely important to us and having you work in the space aids in making that happen.
The Spark Box Studio Artist Residency Program provides live/work space to both emerging and professional artists working in a variety of media including printmaking, painting, drawing, music, film, writing, installation, and curatorial practices.

Artists-in-residence have access to our studio and resources. The Residency Program affords artists the space and time to support the advancement of their careers and to strengthen their practice.

Artists-in-residence stay with us, Chrissy and Kyle, in a charming century home located just outside the town of Picton in Prince Edward County, Ontario, Canada. Interested artists may apply to live and work at Spark Box for a duration of one weekend to 2 months.

Spark Box Studio can facilitate up to three residents at any one time. Residents receive a bedroom and a dedicated studio space.
WHAT IS THE HOUSE LIKE THAT I WILL BE STAYING IN WHILE AT SPARK BOX?
The Spark Box Residency is located in a farm house just outside of Picton. While at Spark Box you will be sharing the house with other residents, along with Kyle and Chrissy (the owners of the studio). The house has a large living room, dining room and kitchen. Each room has lots of light, reading material and sitting space. We want our house to be your house so we hope that residents will make themselves comfortable in the space.

IS THERE A KITCHEN I CAN USE?
Yes. There is a full kitchen that is shared between everyone that lives in the house. The kitchen is stocked with pots, pans, dishes, rice cookers, baking sheets, coffee makers, etc. You are responsible for your own food while staying at the residency.
WHAT ARE THE ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE?
Each resident is given a private bedroom fit with a dresser, closet, bed and vintage bits and bobs. Being that we are in an old farm house the summers are hot and the winters are cold. If you come in summer sadly we do not have air conditioning but fans are provided. If you come in the winter bring pyjamas and slippers because farm houses can be drafty.

DO I NEED TO BRING MY OWN LINENS?
No. We provide residents with linens, towels and washcloths. If you have a favourite pillow or blanket you are more than welcome to bring them along but otherwise we have you covered.

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN YOU HOUSE AT ONE TIME?
We can have three residents at a time.
IS THERE ANYTHING I SHOULD CONSIDER BRINGING FOR MY STAY?
If you are coming in the summer bring your bathing suit. There are many beaches around Prince Edward County and we often run off to the beach for a quick swim. If you are coming during the winter bring warm clothes, slippers and outdoor winter attire.

CAN I BRING MY PARTNER/HUSBAND TO THE SPARK BOX RESIDENCY?
Only if you are both artists or make special arrangements with Kyle and Chrissy ahead of time (prices will change based on this arrangement).

ARE PETS ALLOWED AT SPARK BOX?
Sadly no. We have a small dog that lives with us and sometimes he does not get along with other animals. If you do not like animals please let us know so we can arrange to send Rico (our dog) elsewhere.

ALLERGIES.
We have a severe nut allergy at the house so please do not bring any nut products to the residency. If you suffer from any allergies please tell us in advance so we can make sure to inform other residents that may be staying here at the same time.
TRANSPORTATION.
Residents are responsible for finding their way to the studio. We do offer a pick up service to residents arriving in Belleville by train or bus (we charge a $30.00 fee). Residents flying should arrive at the Pearson Airport in Toronto. Residents coming from Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, etc. can take the train (Via Rail) or bus (Greyhound or Coach Canada) to the Belleville Station. If we can’t pick you up from Belleville you can take the Desoronto Transit or Cronkie’s Taxi Cab.

The residency and studio are located just outside of the largest town in Prince Edward County, Picton. Picton is a 40 min walk, 3 min drive and a 10 - 15 min bike ride away from the studio. We offer rides into town once a week for groceries, etc. If residents need to go into town throughout the week they are responsible for finding their own transportation. There are local taxi companies which charge $10.00 flat rate to Picton. Bikes can be rented from the local bike shop here is the information (http://www.torontocyclist.com/bbc/7rentals.html).

IS THERE PARKING?
Yes. Lots in fact.
Spark Box Studio Residents are each given a studio space. This space is yours for the duration of your stay and can be used however you see fit. Some residents put up personal images to inspired them, some fill the space with books and others keep the room clean and simple. Two of the residency studios are located inside the main house (a 300 square foot space which is divided into two semi-private studios), while the third is located outside in the print studio (a 150 square foot space which is private).

Each studio space has tables, chairs, easels, drafting desks, windows and wall space. Residents can tack work to the walls, paint on the floors or sketch away at the desks. There are flat file drawers for printmakers.
DO I NEED TO BRING MY OWN MATERIALS?
If you are a painter, illustrator, sculptor, writer or musician than it is best to bring your own supplies. Although we do have a lot of materials here we cannot promise to have what you might need/want. We are a non-toxic studio which means some modifications need to be considered for visual artists, please touch base with us about your materials and we will assist you.

If you are printmaker we do have inks, paper, plates, chemicals, etc. but if you have a preference or work with a specific type of material it is best that you bring your own. Also, because we usually have to travel to get our materials or make special orders it is good to make sure we have what you need/want before you arrive so we can let you know for sure that we have it. You will be charged for your material use based on weight for inks, plate sizes, screen use, etc. If you would like to see the material fee booklet please contact Chrissy and she will send you the PDF.

It should also be noted that all materials at our studio are used by open studio members, workshop participants and any other person using the studio so if you are particular about the tools, papers, materials, etc. it might be in your best interest to bring your own. We supply materials that are cost effective and easy to use for all participants and do not carry a wide range of all things at the studio. If you need to have things shipped to the studio to save on costs we are happy to accept your shipments so long as you let us know in advance.
WHAT EQUIPMENT DO YOU HAVE AT SPARK BOX STUDIO?

Presses:
- 48 x 28 inch floor model Sturges etching press
- 48 x 28 in lithography Parks Press (currently used to relief printing)
- Vandercook SP-15
- 36 x 18 inch floor model etching press (perhaps homemade ... it was a donation)

Silkscreen:
- 30 x 26 in vacuum exposure unit
- Fifteen 20 x 24 in 280 mesh screens
- Several miscellaneous small and medium sized screens in different mesh counts

Polymere Plates:
-Nu-Arc 26-1K Plate Burner
WHAT ABOUT OTHER PRINTMAKING MATERIALS?

- We always stock Somerset 250 GSM satin rag paper.
- We have a range of intaglio rubber based inks from Van Son.
- We always stock 20 gauge roofing copper for etching. Our etchant is only used for warm metals and we do not have an etchant for cold metals. If you like using cold metals you will have to process your plates before coming to the studio. If you are very particular about your copper please bring your own. Ours is used by everyone and does come with minor flaws.
- We always stock water based silkscreen inks. These inks are made up out of two bases (transparent and opaque white) and pigments. This system allows you to mix any colour you would like. Again, if you have certain colours that you are used to using please bring your own.
- We have a small collection of type faces for the Vandercook.
- We always usually stock linoleum and supply speedball tools (tools are generally used for workshops and lino is the semi-soft version).
- We have several different etching, drypoint and engraving tools.
- We generally have four different colours in etching inks (we use both Graphic Chemical inks and Charbonnel).
- We supply all rags, cleaners, emulsions, developers, tape, newsprint, paper towel, etc.
NONTOXIC PRINTMAKING.

We have made the choice to make our studio as nontoxic as possible. This means that we do not allow solvents in our studio space. This also means that we use a very different process for etching. Many people are unfamiliar with this process, but, we are always happy to give residents a workshop if they are interested in etching (there is a fee for this workshop). If you feel most comfortable working with the traditional etching process, sadly, we don’t allow this in our space. Since we offer workshops to kids and teens we want the studio to be as safe as possible. You are always welcome to prep your plates prior to coming and using our press to print them. Although nontoxic printing has its issues, once you have given it time you will find that it yields the same results as traditional methods. Please take the time to find out more about this system through this website: www.nontoxicprint.com
DO WE HAVE COMPUTERS FOR THE VISITING ARTISTS?
At this time we do not. If you need a computer for your project please find a way to bring one with you. There is a library in the town that residents can use for free. We do have free WIFI at the residency for all residents.

IS THE STUDIO 24 HOUR ACCESS?
Yes.

IS THERE SPACE TO WORK OUTSIDE?
Yes. We have a two acre property and are surrounded by farmer fields so there is lots of space for artists to work outside and use the residency property.

DO YOU PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?
Yes. Kyle and Chrissy are generally around and available to help residents with technical issues (or for a chat over coffee/tea). That being said the intention is that you can and will be working independently, so if major assistance is required there will be an additional fee.

WHERE IS THE CLOSEST ART SUPPLY STORE?
The closest art supply store is 45 min away. It is always best to come prepared. Or let us know in advance if you are going to need to go to the art supply store.

DO YOU HOST ART EVENTS FOR VISITING ARTISTS?
If the resident would like to host an exhibition during their stay we are happy to work with them to do so but it is not a requirement or part of the residency.
CHRISYY, KYLLE
& RICO
Kyle Topping and Chrissy Poitras are the owners and operators of Spark Box Studio. Both practicing artists, they are recent graduates of the Fine Arts and Art History programs at Queen’s University.

Rico is our chihuahua corgi mix. He has a bit of a Napoleon complex and one mighty bark. While he always wins the hearts of residents he has another home close by that he can move to during your stay if you have any issue with dogs.
Prince Edward County is a beautiful island community rich in culture, with an extraordinarily high concentration of artists and art lovers. The County offers something for everyone – artist studios and galleries, an historical theatre showcasing current films, alternative films and stage productions, boutiques with new and vintage clothing, pubs with live music, funky cafes, wineries, farm stands with abundant local produce, meats, and homemade products, and speciality food shops. The County is a great place to get away and enjoy a peaceful, quiet environment with numerous sandy beaches along its shoreline, Provincial Parks and conservation areas with hiking and biking trails, and beautiful rural scenery.

The Prince Edward County benefits from being located between several major Canadian cities. Toronto is located 215km away, a 2.5hr drive. Ottawa is located 271km away, a 3.0hr drive. Montreal is located 363km away, a 4.0hr drive.
“...it is so blissful to be in a big old house surrounded by corn and hay fields, it is peaceful and relaxing, and also productive and inspiring. Chrissy and Kyle are amazing hosts, light hearted and ambitious pair, they make you feel very comfortable and welcomed and go out of there way for you. I have a large studio space to work, and there is a great library of books from art books, to wild flower books, to old life magazines.”
-Sarah Burwash

“...I can only say that it is more beautiful, lovely, and homey in real life than the photos already suggest. Thanks to Chrissy and Kyle for hosting Kirsten McCrea and I. We have a darling little studio to explode in. Lots of new collages on the way, some writing and new projects.”
-JP King

“Thank you for having me at Spark Box this week. I hope I was a good resident because you guys were great hosts!”
-Laurie Kang

“I had an amazing time and I am so glad to have had this opportunity!! Thanks so much for everything”
-Jamie Q.

“Thank you for inviting me into your space and letting me be part of your amazing project here in Picton. This whole experience affected me much more than I had anticipated. It’s been very meaningful for me on so many different levels.”
-Hanna Hur

“You guys are wonderful and the place is like heaven. Thank you so much for having me- I’m really going to miss it here”
-Monica Lacey
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