

UNION FINE ART GALLERY / ERIE LABOR TEMPLE

INK SHIFT

31 DAYS UNDER PRESSURE

ARTIST PROSPECTUS + FIELD MANUAL

2026 // OPEN WORK PERIOD + CURATED EXHIBITION + ANNUAL PUBLICATION

OCTOBER 1-31, 2026

THE BLACK REGISTER // OPENING NOVEMBER 5, 2026

CLOCK IN. MAKE THE MARK. LEAVE THE EVIDENCE.

CREATED / FOUNDING CURATOR // EDWARD PATRICK KRANZ

CURATOR // THE BLACK REGISTER | EDITOR // THE OCTOBER REGISTER

REGISTER // PROSPECTUS 01 // V1.0

01

READ THIS FIRST

THIS IS THE MAP BEFORE THE WORK STARTS

INK SHIFT is not a drawing challenge, a contest, or a thirty-one-day demand for polished content.

It is a work period.

For one month, artists return to literal ink and allow repetition, pressure, failure, correction, material intelligence, and change to become visible. The month produces a public working record, a curated UNION exhibition, and an annual BOOKFORGE publication. The point is not to perform productivity. The point is to leave evidence of actual work.

THE CORE DISTINCTION

INK SHIFT is open participation. THE REGISTER is edited. THE BLACK REGISTER is curated. THE OCTOBER REGISTER is editorially selected. None of those later selections are guaranteed by simply completing the month.

01	02	03	04
MAKE	REGISTER	EXHIBIT	BIND
October 1-31 literal ink / repetition	weekly evidence edited public record	November 5 THE BLACK REGISTER	December THE OCTOBER REGISTER

This prospectus is the artist-facing source of truth for the 2026 program architecture and deadlines. Signed agreements and work-specific intake records control legal, sales, custody, and publication terms if they differ from this guide.

WORK PERIOD	October 1-31, 2026
PARTICIPATION FEE	\$0
ELIGIBILITY	Artists age 18+
MATERIAL RULE	Literal, physical ink must materially exist in the underlying work
REGISTER	Digital evidence packet approximately once per week; editorial selection
EXHIBITION	THE BLACK REGISTER - Proof of October / opens November 5, 2026
PUBLICATION	THE OCTOBER REGISTER / VOL. 01 / published by UNION; produced and bound with BOOKFORGE
OPERATOR	Erie Temple Works LLC d/b/a Erie Labor Temple, operating UNION at Erie Labor Temple

02

WHAT COUNTS AS INK SHIFT

INK IS A MATERIAL, NOT A COLOR SETTING

INK SHIFT is built around literal, physical ink. The mark can be controlled or unstable, precise or ugly, singular or repeated. It can appear on paper, board, cloth, book structures, print surfaces, found material, or within mixed media. What matters is that ink is materially present in the actual work.

ELIGIBLE APPROACHES CAN INCLUDE

- Drawing and illustration
- India ink, drawing ink, sumi, brush ink
- Fountain, technical, dip-pen, marker, or ballpoint practice
- Relief, screen, and other printmaking processes using ink
- Lettering, calligraphy, comics, and sequential work
- Artist books and book arts
- Asemic and written mark-making
- Mixed media in which ink is a consequential material

MATERIAL RULE

Photography, scanning, and digital layout may document the work. A digital-only image does not satisfy the program premise. Ink must exist materially in the qualifying underlying work.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE

INK SHIFT 2026 is open to artists age 18 and older. The current program rules do not impose a geographic restriction. Artists may participate in the month digitally through the registration and REGISTER workflow; physical exhibition participation, if selected, requires the artist to meet the confirmed delivery or shipping requirements.

WHAT UNION IS NOT ASKING FOR

- Thirty-one finished masterpieces
- A daily social-media post
- A polished artist statement every week
- A particular style of drawing
- Work made to please a jury
- A digital simulation of ink with no physical ink in the underlying work

The question is simpler: what happens to the work when you stay with the material long enough for it to argue back?

03 THE MONTH

MAKE / GATHER / REGISTER / REVIEW

Artists register once, work throughout October, and submit small digital evidence packets rather than dumping an entire month of output into a form. Weekly participation is strongly encouraged, but the registration system allows artists to submit irregularly or participate in INK SHIFT without appearing every week in the public REGISTER.

DO NOT SEND YOUR ENTIRE WEEK

Pick the evidence. A finished piece. A failed page. A test. A bleed. A tool. A correction. A false start. A detail. The page you nearly threw away.

EACH WEEKLY PACKET ASKS FOR

- Registered artist email and public artist name
- REGISTER week
- 1-3 image files; recommended maximum 10 MB each
- Evidence type: PASS / FAILED WORK / TEST / DETAIL / TOOL / PROCESS / OTHER
- Ink / materials
- One sentence answering: WHAT CHANGED IN THE WORK THIS WEEK?
- Optional factual, credit, material, or content-warning note

WEEKLY SUBMISSION WINDOWS

OCT 04	WEEK 01 DUE	Evidence from October 1-4 / 11:59 PM ET
OCT 11	WEEK 02 DUE	Evidence from October 5-11 / 11:59 PM ET
OCT 18	WEEK 03 DUE	Evidence from October 12-18 / 11:59 PM ET
OCT 25	WEEK 04 DUE	Evidence from October 19-25 / 11:59 PM ET
NOV 01	WEEK 05 DUE	Evidence from October 26-31 / 11:59 PM ET - intentionally after October ends

ELT/UNION may select, hold, sequence, caption, or decline weekly evidence. Submission does not guarantee publication. Artists do not need to nominate weekly submissions for THE BLACK REGISTER or THE OCTOBER REGISTER; those reviews happen separately.

THE REGISTER is not a popularity feed. There are no likes to chase and no requirement that every artist appear equally. It is an edited public record of what the month is doing to the work.

PASS	Finished or nearly finished work
FAILED WORK	Abandoned, broken, overworked, misfired, or deliberately stopped
TEST	Material, nib, wash, pressure, dilution, paper, process, composition, or procedural experiment
TOOL / IMPLEMENT	Brushes, pens, plates, blocks, nibs, stamps, containers, or other devices materially shaping the result
PROCESS / DETAIL	Close evidence of how the work is being made or changing

A typical public REGISTER entry may include a register number, artist credit, date, evidence classification, image, material note, and the artist's one-sentence change statement. ELT/UNION controls sequencing and publication timing so the record can function as an editorial object rather than a raw submission dump.

ARTIST OWNERSHIP

Your original physical work stays with you. Weekly REGISTER submission is digital documentation unless UNION separately requests physical work through the documented BLACK REGISTER intake process.

RIGHTS AT THE REGISTER STAGE

- You retain ownership and copyright in your artwork, images, text, and other original material.
- Registration grants ELT/UNION a nonexclusive documentation and program-use license for the REGISTER, direct program publicity, website, newsletter, social, press, education, fundraising, grant reporting, exhibition documentation, institutional history, and archive.
- Reasonable crop, resize, color correction, captioning, and layout treatment are allowed; material alteration of the underlying artwork is not.
- Registration does not authorize merchandise, standalone commercial prints, giclees, unrelated third-party licensing, future OCTOBER REGISTER volumes, or other commercial exploitation.
- No AI-training, model-training, synthetic-derivative, or dataset rights are granted through the program forms.

05

THE BLACK REGISTER

PROOF OF OCTOBER

THE BLACK REGISTER is the curated exhibition emerging from INK SHIFT 2026. It is not a second open call and it is not a prize for the artists who produced the prettiest drawings.

UNION is looking for evidence of sustained work: resolved pieces, failures, tests, corrections, repeated forms, material intelligence, changes of direction, and the relationship between process and outcome.

OPEN DOOR / CURATED WALL

INK SHIFT participation is open. THE BLACK REGISTER is curated by Edward Patrick Kranz, Gallerist / Manager of UNION at Erie Labor Temple. There is no submission, exhibition, or hanging fee.

CURATORIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Sustained engagement across October
- Material intelligence and literal-ink use
- Visible development or transformation
- Productive failure or meaningful revision
- Strong relationship between finished work and process evidence
- An unusual, rigorous, or revealing use of ink
- Contribution to the larger exhibition conversation
- Physical feasibility and responsible installation

WHAT AN ARTIST MAY PROPOSE

Registered INK SHIFT artists may propose up to three works or evidence groups. A proposal can be a resolved work, work still in progress, a sequence, an artist-book or book-based work, a finished work shown with tests or failed versions, or process material that materially strengthens the exhibition.

UNION may accept fewer works than proposed. Submission for consideration creates no exhibition right, sale, consignment, custody relationship, insurance promise, payment, reimbursement, or guarantee of selection.

06

BLACK REGISTER PATHWAY

CURATORIAL GATES / INTAKE / INSTALL

OCT 19	CONSIDERATION OPENS	Registered INK SHIFT artists only
OCT 25	CONSIDERATION CLOSES	11:59 PM ET / up to three work or evidence groups
OCT 26-27	CURATORIAL REVIEW	Edward / UNION
OCT 28	CONDITIONAL SELECTION	Selected artists prepare final information
OCT 31	FINAL WORK CONFIRM	Title, medium, dimensions, price/NFS, technical details due 11:59 PM ET
NOV 01	FINAL ACCEPTANCE	Final work list issued by 6:00 PM ET
NOV 02	PHYSICAL INTAKE	By confirmed appointment / signed agreement + Artwork Record required
NOV 03-04	INSTALL	UNION-led installation
NOV 05	OPENING	THE BLACK REGISTER - Proof of October / public hours announced separately

VENUE

Working primary venue: UNION / Great Hall. Approved fallback: ELT Atelier/Classroom. This is one exhibition with two possible installation footprints, not two different shows. Selected artists receive the controlling room before physical intake.

INSTALLATION + RISK DISCLOSURE

Artists must disclose unusual wall fasteners, ceiling suspension or rigging, electrical power, projection, sound, moving or interactive components, liquid, heat, sharp, fragile or hazardous material, special handling, or custom installation needs. Selection remains subject to safe physical feasibility.

Installation is led by UNION. Artist participation is required when specialized knowledge, equipment, handling, fabrication, programming, staffing, or technical operation is necessary.

07 PHYSICAL WORK / SALES / MONEY

NO PAY-TO-PLAY

ARTIST ACCESS // \$0

INK SHIFT registration: \$0. BLACK REGISTER consideration: \$0. Exhibition fee: \$0. Hanging fee: \$0. UNION earns on a sale when the artist earns on a sale.

IF YOUR WORK IS SELECTED

- A separate UNION Artist Exhibition, Consignment + Sales Agreement must be signed.
- A separate Artwork Record + Consignment Receipt + Condition Report must be completed for every physical work before UNION takes possession.
- Work-specific title, year, medium, dimensions, edition information, sale status, price, declared value, installation requirements, and visible condition are recorded at intake.
- Transportation and shipping to and from UNION are the artist's responsibility and expense unless a separate written agreement says otherwise.
- Work must arrive complete, stable, clean, and ready for the approved installation plan.

SALES

SALE STATUS	For Sale or Not for Sale - artist choice
COMMISSION	60% Artist / 40% UNION
PRICE CHANGES	UNION may not discount or change the listed price without artist written approval
ARTIST PAYMENT	Within 30 calendar days after UNION receives full cleared payment from the buyer
SALES TAX / BUYER SHIPPING	Excluded from the 60/40 artwork-price split unless separately amended

ARTWORK CARE / INSURANCE

UNION will use reasonable care while accepted work is in its custody. The exhibition agreement does not promise blanket insurance coverage. Available coverage, limits, exclusions, deductibles, valuation rules, transit provisions, and claims procedures are governed by the applicable policy and written documentation. Artists who want transit insurance are responsible for arranging it.

08 THE OCTOBER REGISTER

THE EVENT ENDS. THE RECORD REMAINS.

THE OCTOBER REGISTER / VOL. 01 is the annual physical record of INK SHIFT 2026, published by UNION at Erie Labor Temple, edited by Edward Patrick Kranz, and produced and bound with BOOKFORGE.

It may include selected artwork, process evidence, REGISTER entries, short artist text, exhibition documentation, production material, credits, and colophon information. It is not required to be finished for the November 5 opening. A dummy or proof may be shown at THE BLACK REGISTER; the finished publication follows the exhibition so the record can include what actually happened in the room.

STANDARD EDITION	Approved first-printing operating band: 100-150 copies
COLLECTOR EDITION	BOOKFORGE collector edition may be produced in an edition of 20-30 copies
COMMERCIAL STATUS	For-sale annual publication
ARTIST COPYRIGHT	Retained by the artist / contributor
LICENSE	Separate written Contributor License required for specifically identified material
CONTRIBUTOR COPY	One complimentary standard copy if the contributor's material is materially reproduced
ADDITIONAL COPIES	30% contributor discount on standard copies purchased directly from ELT / UNION while stock remains

WHAT THE PUBLICATION LICENSE DOES NOT TAKE

- No exclusive rights
- No future OCTOBER REGISTER volume rights
- No standalone commercial print or giclee rights
- No merchandise rights
- No unrelated third-party commercial licensing rights
- No AI-training, model-training, synthetic-derivative, or dataset rights
- No right to materially alter the work or intentionally remove contributor credit

The contributor license carries no per-copy royalty or honorarium unless a separate written amendment says otherwise. Original artwork sales remain governed by the separate UNION exhibition/consignment records.

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PUBLICATION CALENDAR

EDITORIAL DEADLINES THAT AFFECT ARTISTS

NOV 01	PROVISIONAL CONTRIBUTORS	Rolling candidates consolidated after final REGISTER packet
NOV 06	FINAL SELECTION	Publication selection finalized after BLACK REGISTER documentation
NOV 08	LICENSE + FILES DUE	Contributor License, high-resolution material, credit and final factual metadata due 11:59 PM ET
NOV 09	CONTENT FREEZE	No substantive additions without editor reopening
NOV 16	LAYOUT PROOF 01	Full publication proof
NOV 18	FACTUAL CORRECTIONS	Credit, title, medium, spelling, caption and obvious reproduction errors due
NOV 20	DESIGN LOCK	Editorial and layout architecture final
NOV 23	PRINT-READY	Standard edition files released to production
DEC 10	STANDARD RELEASE	THE OCTOBER REGISTER / VOL. 01 target public release
DEC 18	COLLECTOR RELEASE	BOOKFORGE collector edition target release

WHY DECEMBER

The finished annual book comes after the exhibition so it can contain exhibition documentation, final permissions, accurate credits, and the record of what October became. The November 5 opening gets a proof object - not a rushed souvenir.

10 RIGHTS / PRIVACY / CONTROL

WHAT STAYS YOURS

UNION is building an annual institutional property. It is not acquiring the artists inside it.

YOUR ARTWORK	You retain physical ownership until a completed sale or other written transfer
YOUR COPYRIGHT	You retain copyright and other rights not expressly granted
PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION	Limited nonexclusive license through the INK SHIFT registration agreement
BLACK REGISTER DOCUMENTATION	Limited nonexclusive exhibition/documentation license through the exhibition agreement
OCTOBER REGISTER	Separate commercial contributor license for specifically identified material only
AI USE	No AI-training or synthetic-derivative rights granted through these program documents
PUBLIC INFORMATION	Professional/display name, approved bio, approved links, work information, approved images and participation may be public
PRIVATE INFORMATION	Legal name where not used as credit, personal contact details, tax/payment information, private access or emergency information remain administrative except where disclosure is required

CONTROLLING DOCUMENTS

- Artist Registration + Participant Rights Agreement - controls INK SHIFT participation and ordinary program documentation.
- Weekly REGISTER Submission - routes evidence under the permissions already granted at registration.
- BLACK REGISTER Consideration Form - curatorial consideration only; no custody or consignment.
- UNION Artist Exhibition, Consignment + Sales Agreement + Artwork Record - controls selected physical work, custody, sales, condition, and return.
- THE OCTOBER REGISTER Contributor License - controls commercial reproduction in VOL. 01 only.

If a signed agreement or later written amendment conflicts with this prospectus, the signed agreement or amendment controls the affected term.

11 ACCESS / LOGISTICS / WHAT TO EXPECT

ERIE LABOR TEMPLE

Erie Labor Temple is a working multi-story cultural building, not a neutral white cube detached from production. The program is designed around that fact.

ACCESS

The building currently has no elevator. THE BLACK REGISTER's working primary venue is the Great Hall; the Atelier/Classroom is the approved fallback. Room-specific access, route, delivery, and visitor information will be confirmed when the exhibition room is locked. Artists or visitors who need an accommodation should contact ELT as early as possible so current options can be discussed clearly.

DELIVERY + PICKUP

Physical work should not arrive before written acceptance and completed intake documents. Selected artists will receive the confirmed room and intake appointment. Pickup timing follows the final exhibition term and will be confirmed in the accepted-work notice or a later written amendment.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Opening-night attendance is appreciated but is not a condition of acceptance. Talks, interviews, demonstrations, workshops, performances, specialized installation labor, travel, lodging, honoraria, or other artist services are not included unless separately agreed in writing.

QUESTIONS

GALLERY	UNION at Erie Labor Temple
ADDRESS	1701 State Street / Erie, Pennsylvania 16501
EMAIL	erielabortemple@gmail.com
WEBSITE	erielabortemple.com
OPERATOR	Erie Temple Works LLC
GALLERIST / MANAGER	Edward Patrick Kranz

12 HOW TO ENTER THE SYSTEM

CLOCK IN

The participation sequence is intentionally simple:

01	REGISTER	Complete the one-time INK SHIFT Artist Registration + Participant Rights Agreement.
02	WORK	Begin October 1. Make in literal ink. Keep the evidence.
03	SUBMIT	Send a small weekly REGISTER packet on the published Sunday deadlines.
04	CONSIDER	If you want exhibition consideration, submit the separate BLACK REGISTER form October 19-25.
05	ACCEPT	If selected, complete the UNION exhibition agreement and Artwork Record before physical intake.
06	PUBLISH	If selected for THE OCTOBER REGISTER, complete the separate Contributor License and final-file package.

2026 REGISTRATION WINDOW

Public artist registration opens Tuesday, September 8, 2026 and closes Sunday, October 4, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET. A participant start packet is scheduled for September 29. INK SHIFT begins October 1.

REGISTRATION LINK // RELEASE GATE

The live registration URL will be inserted only after the digital form and intake workflow pass final QA. Until then, this master prospectus is not the registration endpoint.

Questions before or during the call: erielabortemple@gmail.com

NOT A MOMENT. AN ENGINE.

UNION is the contemporary fine art gallery inside Erie Labor Temple. It commissions, exhibits, documents, and sells work with teeth - art that reflects the present, argues with the future, and treats Erie as a launchpad rather than a limit. UNION is production-first: exhibitions, commissions, editions, documentation, collector development, and public programming are built as one working system.

INK SHIFT is an annual UNION/ELT property designed to compound rather than disappear: one October work period, one public REGISTER, one curated BLACK REGISTER exhibition, one OCTOBER REGISTER volume, one growing archive.

AUTHORSHIP + OWNERSHIP

INK SHIFT was created by Edward Patrick Kranz and is an annual program of UNION at Erie Labor Temple. THE BLACK REGISTER is curated by Edward Patrick Kranz, Gallerist / Manager of UNION. THE OCTOBER REGISTER is edited by Edward Patrick Kranz and produced with BOOKFORGE.

INSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS NOTICE

Program and publication compilation rights are controlled institutionally by Erie Temple Works LLC, doing business as Erie Labor Temple and operating UNION at Erie Labor Temple, subject to applicable rights and agreements. Individual artworks, photographs, texts, and other credited contributions remain the property of their respective rights holders except where separately agreed in writing.

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