

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Baltimore, Maryland, August 3, 2021. **Platemark** is a new, independent podcast about art and ideas created and produced in Baltimore, MD, by Ann Shafer. In **Platemark Series One**, Shafer and co-host Ben Levy (formerly colleagues at the Baltimore Museum of Art) converse about issues facing the artworld with a focus on museums, curatorial work, critiques and studio visits, value (market and conceptual), redefining the art historical canon, and prints, printmaking, print fairs, and print publishing. They attempt to demystify looking at and assessing works of art, the idea of the curator/scholar in the white tower, and the museum as an imposing marble edifice. Included are discussions about decolonization and social justice, what it meant to them to be able to teach young artists in the museum's print study room, and why prints are the best. They hope by drawing back the curtain, the rarified world of the museum may be opened further to listeners.

**“As a curator, my mission is to convert people into art- and print-lovers. I often refer to myself as a print evangelist, and *Platemark* is my megaphone. Listen and find out why prints are awesome.” —Ann Shafer**

**Platemark Series Two** will dive into the history of Western prints and printmaking. Shafer is joined by art historian and printmaker Tru Ludwig for conversations about the social context and history of printmaking in the Western world. Over multiple episodes, they will discuss various landmarks of print history, including works by Albrecht Dürer, Rembrandt van Rijn, Francisco de Goya, Honoré Daumier, Mary Cassatt, Käthe Kollwitz, Elizabeth Catlett, Edward Hopper, and many more. Links to images of the prints covered will be provided in the episode show notes.

**Platemark Series Three** will feature interviews by Shafer and Levy with artists, print publishers and dealers, master printers, curators, gallerists, and scholars.

To date, six episodes of the first series have been released on Apple, Spotify, Amazon Music, Google Podcasts, iHeartRadio, and Pocket Casts, as well as at [www.platemarkpodcast.com](http://www.platemarkpodcast.com).

Platemark creator and host Ann Shafer is an independent curator with more than twenty-five years of experience in major museums and specializes in the field of prints, drawings, and photographs. Series One co-host Ben Levy is a PhD candidate in art history at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, who specializes in prints and photographs. Shafer and Levy worked together at the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) for six years and, most notably, co-directed the BMA's Baltimore Contemporary Print Fair in 2012 and 2015. Series Two co-host Tru Ludwig is an artist, founder and master printer at Purple Crayon Press, and professor at the Maryland Institute College of Art.

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**Ann Shafer** is an independent curator, art historian, writer, and a leading expert on intaglio printmaking by Stanley William Hayter and Atelier 17. Formerly Shafer was associate curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs at the Baltimore Museum of Art, where she curated a variety of exhibitions including *On the Mark: Contemporary Works on Paper* in 2010, the annual *Baker Artist Awards* in 2011 and 2012, *Front Room: An-My Lê* in 2013, *On Paper: Spin, Crinkle, Pluck* and *On Paper: Alternate Realities* in 2015, as well as *Front Room: Broomberg & Chanarin* in 2016. She also organized the museum's Baltimore Contemporary Print Fair in 2012, 2015, and 2017, featuring an international array of twenty presses, publishers, and dealers. Shafer has a BA from The College of Wooster and an MA from Williams College. In addition to the Baltimore Museum of Art, Ann has worked at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Williams College Museum of Art, and the National Gallery of Art.



**Benjamin Levy** is a print and photo scholar and curator. He is currently a PhD student at Case Western Reserve University focusing on the intersection of printmaking and photography at the turn of the 20th-century. He has held curatorial positions including assistant curator, Collections & Academic Programs at the Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, and curatorial assistant, Prints, Drawings & Photographs at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Levy co-directed the Baltimore Contemporary Print Fair in 2012 and 2015. He currently serves as an officer of the Association of Print Scholars and as a member of the National Advisory Board for the Tamarind Institute of Lithography, University of New Mexico. A graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art, Levy is a trained collaborative printmaker.



**Tru Ludwig** is an artist and art historian specializing in prints and printmaking. Originally from Des Moines, Iowa, he earned his BA in studio art and art history, with a minor in music history, from St. Olaf College. He holds an MA in art history from the George Washington University, and an MFA in printmaking and drawing from Towson University. Since 1999, he has taught in the Art Education, Art History, First Year Experience, and Printmaking departments at the Maryland Institute College of Art; and art history at the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University. Ludwig's studio practice is devoted to large-scale woodcuts and multi-plate etchings which have been shown on four continents and are included in collections across the United States.