



Kennedy in his letterpress studio

# INTRODUCTION TO PRINTING

## Amos Kennedy Jr. wasn't always an artist.

Born in Lafayette Louisiana, Kennedy lived a full life before even becoming a printmaker. Getting married, having children, and becoming a system's analyst for AT&T after earning a degree in Mathematics at Grambling State University in '72, he lived a successful, yet unfulfilling life.

In deciding to go into this career path, Kennedy gave up multiple years of studying calligraphy, stating that from an early age, he had an interest in letters, words and books. He gave up studying the arts to live a corporate life which he eventually gave up after seeing a letterpress demonstration while on vacation with his family in Colonial Williamsburg in the late 80's.

This is where his artistic journey truly began. He claims within minutes of watching this demonstration, he knew that this is what he was meant to do, and quit his job shortly after. Looking back at his decision now, Kennedy says that he feels it was his calling in life to print, and that he does so because he is good at it, and that it makes him happy.

He began his printmaking education with community based lessons at a letterpress shop in Chicago called Artists Book Works. After about six months, he was given a printing press, and three months later, a type collection. And In 1997 he earned his MFA from Walter Hamady at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

