

WIDE-FORMAT PRINTERS UV-CURING, TEXTILE, SOLVENT



INKJET INKS, MEDIA, CNC ROUTERS

SGIA 2016, LAS VEGAS

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INTRODUCTION

SGIA 2016 was the largest and most successful printer and signage expo in North America this year. We hope their success will encourage other expos also to improve. It is sad around the world to see expos declining (as we witnessed with VISCOM Spain (which collapsed totally); VISCOM Milano (still viable, but used to be THREE giant halls). So it helps to see expos; which are holding up to competition (Sign Istanbul is a good example). A few expos don't have as much competition and are also #1 in their respective countries: SGI in Dubai and Sign Africa co-located with Africa Print and FESPA Africa.



This view documents the popularity of SGIA 2016.

INKJET PRINTERS AT SGIA

Lots of screen printers, screen printer inks, and other screen printing equipment all around the expo. But our focus at FLAAR Reports since 1997 has been inkjet and toner-based digital printers. Although the obvious focus at SGIA is signage and graphics printing, we also study industrial printing (on glass and ceramic tiles) and have attended Labelexpo Europe. FLAAR Reports has been consultant to major packaging printing companies (and manufacturers). We have 3D scanning and 3D printing people in-house on-staff in the FLAAR offices. But for SGIA the subject is primarily signage and display graphics.



UV PRINTERS

The Big Brands of UV-curing printers were all present at SGIA 2016. We list here those who exhibited more than one printer, for example: AGFA, dilli, efi VUTEk, Fujifilm, Océ Canon, Mimaki, and Novus. Roland and Mimaki also had more than one model on display. Even Vanguard had more than one UV printer model on exhibit as did several booth brands with desktop-sized models.

An additional factor is to what degree the manufacturer of UV-cured printers has developed their own textile printers, since it is increasingly clear that textile printers are a growing trend. We also factor in whether a printer or ink brand is consistent: some brands exhibit in big booths one year, then fall out totally, and then reappear in a tiny booth.

Other brands have one distributor one year, and then the next year that distributor is no longer willing to handle that brand. This reality also affects the resale value of the brand of printer when you wish to move on to another brand. If the brand you bought has been up and down, and in and out, that may lower the resale value significantly.



Flora PP2512 UV printer

It also helps to know which brands exhibit around the world (and are thus fully international), and which brands prefer to focus on USA (plus perhaps Canada to the north and Latin America to the south). Both before SGIA and after SGIA we attended printer trade shows on two other continents in order to note which brands, and which ink chemistries, are popular around the world.

Every printer brand (even if they had only a single printer) is mentioned and shown in our TRENDS edition (since the present general introduction has to be under 5 MB in file size to be an effective attachment for people to send to colleagues; more than 5 MB often causes hiccups in some systems).

At least nine brands of printers made in China were also on exhibit (and some had two or more models), with RTZ Flora having a diverse presence at SGIA. In our TRENDS version we list every brand, every model, plus pertinent information on which printhead each brand features. In our TRENDS we also discuss the situation with distributors for UV-cured (and textile) printers: since Chinese printers with no distributors have a history of lack of penetration of the market.



Flora PP2512 UV printer

Mimaki has changed quite a bit in the last year. Many of the USA sales reps are no longer at Mimaki; they are now at competing printer brands. For example the booth of iti UV-curing flatbed and textile printers had two capable experienced former Mimaki sales managers very content with iti (Paul McGovern and Fran Gardino). Plus a former Teckwin sales manager, Noel Mareno is now doing a great job at iti.



iti TX2512 UV printer

Dilli exhibited several of their well-engineered UV-curing printers such as the NEO SUN FB2512-04DWX and NEO TITAN 1604-W2V.



Dilli Neo Titan 1604D-W2V UV printer

VANGUARD is expanding rapidly in the world of wide-format inkjet printers as well. Competition is actually helpful. Competition nudges companies to offer better products.



Vanguard VK300D UV printer

TEXTILE PRINTERS

Most of the textile printers exhibited at SGIA were for transfer paper printing, and only about a third were direct-to-fabric printers. Out of all the exhibited printers the majority are made in Asia and about a quarter in the rest of the world.

Of the major brands exhibited at SGIA you could find a wide range:

- High-end: Durst, efi, MS Italy
- Mid-range: iti, DGI, d-gen, and some Mimaki models
- Entry-level: Epson, Mimaki, Mutoh, Roland and several Chinese brands

MS was a newbie to the show, exhibiting for the first time at SGIA.

FLAAR has kept track of textile printer brands and kinds of textile inks for over 18 years. For the past several years Maria Renee Ayau of FLAAR Reports has gained international knowledge of trends in the world of printing on textiles with wide-format inkjet inks:

- Textile printer brands
- Textile ink chemistries
- Sublimation systems
- Other Pre-print and post-print workflow equipment.

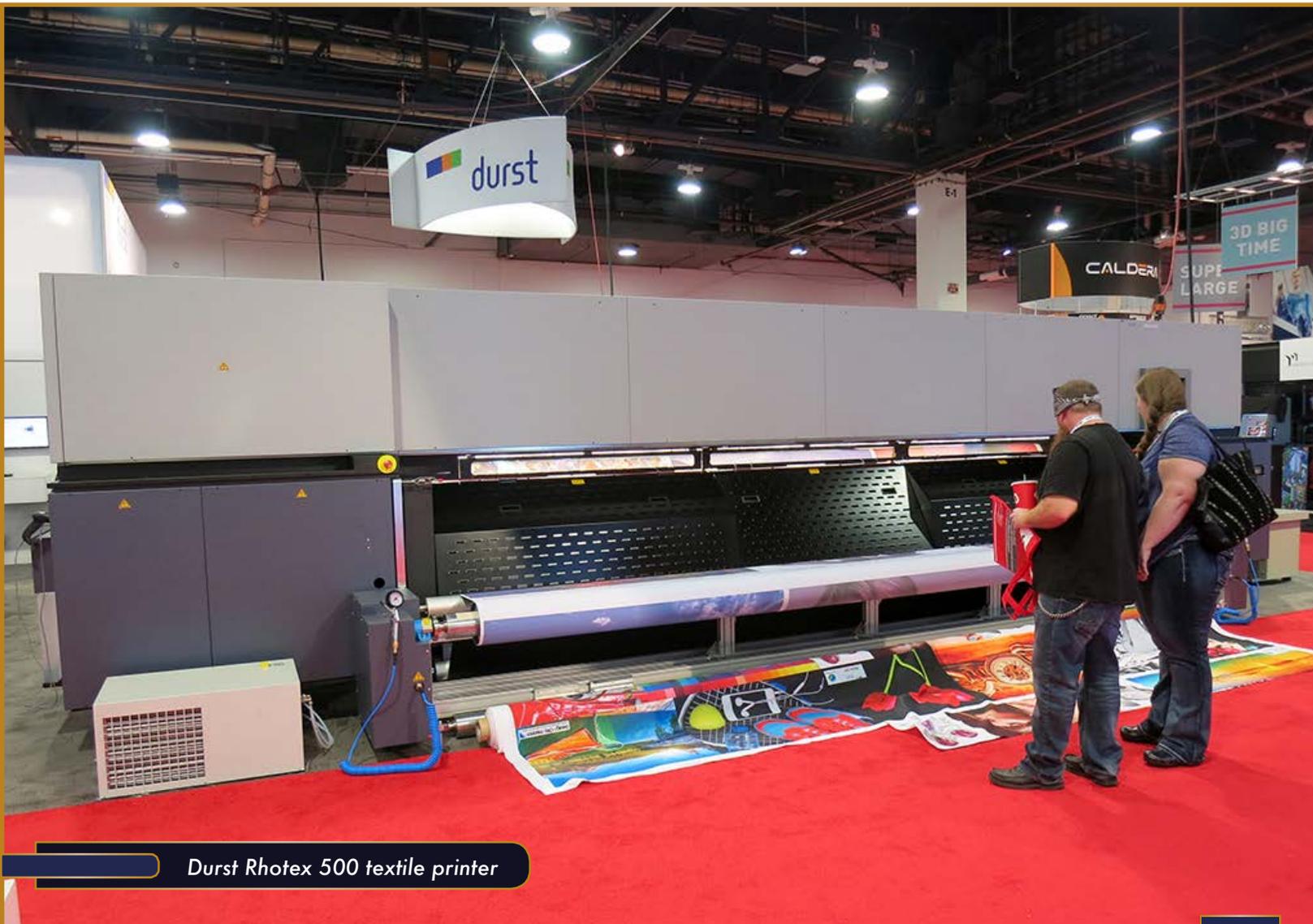


Efi Reggiani textile printer

Plus we attend the leading international textile expos such as ITMA in Europe (every four years) and ITMA Asia (now, in October, in China). Dr Nicholas takes notes on textile printers in other expos around the world, such as FESPA Africa the week before SGIA and Sign Istanbul (a few weeks after SGIA).

So there will be a separate FLAAR Report on TRENDS in textile printers noticed at SGIA. In advance we can definitely state that the impressive solidly engineered textile printer in the booth of iti attracted visitors from most other textile booths (since they now realize this iti printer has features not found on 90% of the other brands at SGIA).

A lot of distributors, even from countries other than USA, discretely came to check on the iti printer. Since we at FLAAR Reports had an entire day with this printer in their demo room in Texas, we know the iti printer inside out. So we sent a lot of people from other booths over to take a look at the new competition.



Durst Rhotex 500 textile printer

THE GARMENT ZONE

Since the digital printing market is now focusing on textiles, SGIA dedicated a special area for textile printing: The Garment Zone. Here you could see printers from: T-shirt from Brother, mid-range from d-gen, high-end from efi Reggiani and entry-level from Epson. Also on exhibition here were finishing equipment machines from Lawson, Monti Antonio and Practix.



Brother GT-3 t-shirt printer



D-gen Teleios Grande textile printer



efi Reggiani textile printer



Monti Antonio finishing equipment

SCREEN PRINTING AT SGIA

The single largest booth at SGIA was still a screen-printing booth. Plus there were a dozen other T-shirt or screen-printing related booths. So the screen-printing initials of SGIA were alive and well still today. Frankly the screen printed T-shirts were really bright and colorful.

Of course the advantage of toner-printed and pigment-ink printed and other inkjet methods of printing T-shirts is for one-off; screen printing is only viable for substantial commercial runs.

LATEX INK PRINTERS

Until there is time to be at an HP demo room and really study all the new-generation improvements, I will just mention the obvious focus of latex ink chemistry in the HP booth. Plus several HP distributors also showed the entry-level latex printers.

There was no latex ink printer in the Mimaki booth whatsoever; and no latex ink printer in the Mimaki booth at FESPA Africa the week before (and no Mimaki SUV printer anywhere either). But in the ample Ricoh booth at SGIA 2016 they had their version of the Mimaki latex printer, the Ricoh Pro L4160 AR Ink.



Ricoh Pro L4160 latex printer

MEMJET PRINTERS

The nice OCE COLORWAVE 910 (Memjet powered) printer was on exhibit in the Canon Oce booth.

But one brand of Memjet-based printer has already withdrawn from the market, with their team saying clearly "with HP's PageWide, with HP's pigmented ink, etc, there is not as much market for Memjet water-based ink limitation." It is uncertain what happened with the vortex 4200 version of Memjet from RTI. This printer certainly disappeared from SGIA, though the RTI web site still exists. Whether Rigoli (the manufacturer) in Italy can compete with Xerox, Oce, and HP PageWide we will see in 2017 at ISA and other expos. But so far, HP PageWide seems to be winning (since it offers pigmented ink). Rigoli is not a known brand at any trade show I have visited anywhere in the world (sorry, not my fault). RTI had great software partners in Hungary and overall they worked hard. But Memjet printheads simply have too many issues...

Ironically, KIP continues to be successful (since they cleverly avoided falling for Memjet PR claims) and I bet has sold more of their printers than all 42" Memjet brands put together. KIP had an ample booth with several printers. I have not been to the KIP factory nor demo room, so I am not yet as experienced with their nice products.

The primary handicap of Memjet (other than being only dye-based, and having no backup nozzles to prevent streaking (banding) is that these printers were preceded by too many years of what could be considered constant exaggerated PR claims in PR releases, most infamously from Australia in past years. There was also the potential question of why it has taken so long to produce a functional printer.

This delay is a downside focusing primarily on a patent farm concept (to earn profit from selling patents).

Another questions (on wide-format prints) is how often is one batch of printheads producing a higher ink density than the adjacent batch of printheads. I would hope that a RIP and color management could solve these issues in the future (since it would be great if Memjet can survive long enough to come out with better heads and heads which can handle pigmented ink). I love new technology, and the print samples from the RTI, Gongzheng, Xerox and Oce Memjet printers were awesome (on coated stock). These were where trade show booths of Xerox, Oce, RTI, etc have facilitated us doing samples. If you use coated stock, even photographic images look great (albeit perhaps not the same as a six color solvent or eight color HP or Canon). So we hope that Xerox and Canon-Oce can survive also. But the other brands will unlikely be able to compete since Canon-Oce and Xerox have more clout.



OCE Colorwave-910

INKJET INKS

In a trade show of such dimensions is not a surprise to find more than 25 companies engaged in manufacturing or distributing inkjet ink. Every year some ink companies go up worldwide, and other ink companies unfortunately have a hiccup. So a couple of companies were totally missing at SGIA; but, when one brand is no longer present, there is always a competitor that moves into the scene. So if you need to keep track of every brand of every ink company who exhibits, there is a separate FLAAR Report on inkjet inks: kinds of inks and brands going up, and brands evaporating from trade show presence.

UV Gel ink was announced by Canon as a competitor to HP latex ink. As with latex ink, UV Gel is usable (so far) only for roll-to-roll. HP reportedly has flatbed latex ink printers at test locations but has not launched any flatbed officially. Since the ingredients and reality of UV Gel ink of Canon are not yet adequately described, we will reserve judgment until actual factual information is available. Our knowledge of ink comes from being at an ink factory (obviously often under NDA), and being in a demo room: plus visiting actual print shops out in the real world where a product actually functions as PR releases claim for it.

We really liked SUV ink of Mimaki: but they stopped exhibiting this at most sign printer expos already two years ago. It was nice to see Mimaki attempting to compete with HP latex with Mimaki latex: but the first two latex ink chemistries they championed did not work well enough to encourage many print shops to buy this system. And most Mimaki distributors don't show the latex printers now for over two years. We admire that Ricoh still exhibits their Ricoh version of Mimaki latex printer.

But there is no buzz on this in their Ricoh nice booth. And since we have never been to a Mimaki or Ricoh facility in Japan, we have no way to write a FLAAR Report to be read by our over half-million readers.

Back to the subject of Canon's UV Gel ink: we hope it does better than Sepiax, better than Staedtler Lumicolor and all the other well-intentioned attempts to produce an exciting new ink. New inks being researched and tested by efi. We look forward to trade shows in 2017 to see these new inks in action.

Sensient is doing quite well with innovative inks. We have been to their Swiss offices many many years ago, but that was before they acquired additional companies and finished development of several nice new inks.



Sensient booth at SGIA 2016

MEDIA & SUBSTRATES

Printable materials are a long-range interest to the team at FLAAR Reports. Pablo M. Lee is Review Editor for printable media and substrates. Maria Renée Ayau is Review Editor for textile printers and inks (and hence also covers transfer paper, protective papers (for calenders) and printable fabrics. Together with Dr. Nicholas Hellmuth this part of the FLAAR Reports team will be preparing articles for magazines around the world on materials for inkjet printing (primarily for large format).

Foam core is a common material to print on. Just be aware that all cheap materials will bend and distort if you hang them on a wall (such as in a photo exhibit). If you need a foam-based material that will not distort, be sure to find a good "solid" brand that is reliable.



Honeycomb sample in Gilamn booth

Honeycomb is a thick rigid material continuing in popularity. Due to patents, and due to the difference in price and use, these sandwich boards come in many different interior structures: not all are honeycomb and not all are even curved. One of many things I like about honeycomb is that you can make your entire booth out of this material, or you can do sculptures (as you see in the Zünd, Esko, and other cutter booths).

Distributors still ask us about PE to print on. PE has so many advantages over PVC, except that solvent ink is not usable for PE, nor most other inks. UV-cured inks are listed as the primary ink for PE (the technical textile PE). But in reality, only certain kinds of PE and only certain settings in RIP and other software allow PE to function.

We look forward to the day when an ink company produces a special ink and curing system specifically for PE for billboards and comparable signage. At SGIA we spoke with one ink company who said their new ink may in fact be able to work on PE. But we would need to test this as a new project.



Jutu PVC sample

BACKLIT

There were lots of booths with backlit; the one that stood out (usually backlit fabric material) was booth 1885 of Top Value Fabrics. We find backlit a huge potential, and we (Pablo, Maria Renee and Nicholas) will be issuing articles on the pertinent brands and workflow in 2017.

We also study booth wall design (pros and cons), booth displays, and booth behavior for employees (today's norm of having your fingers and face in your smart phone is not a clever way to express to clients in the aisle that you and your company welcome them into your booth). We have FLAAR Reports on all these topics.



Top Value Fabrics booth at SGIA 2016

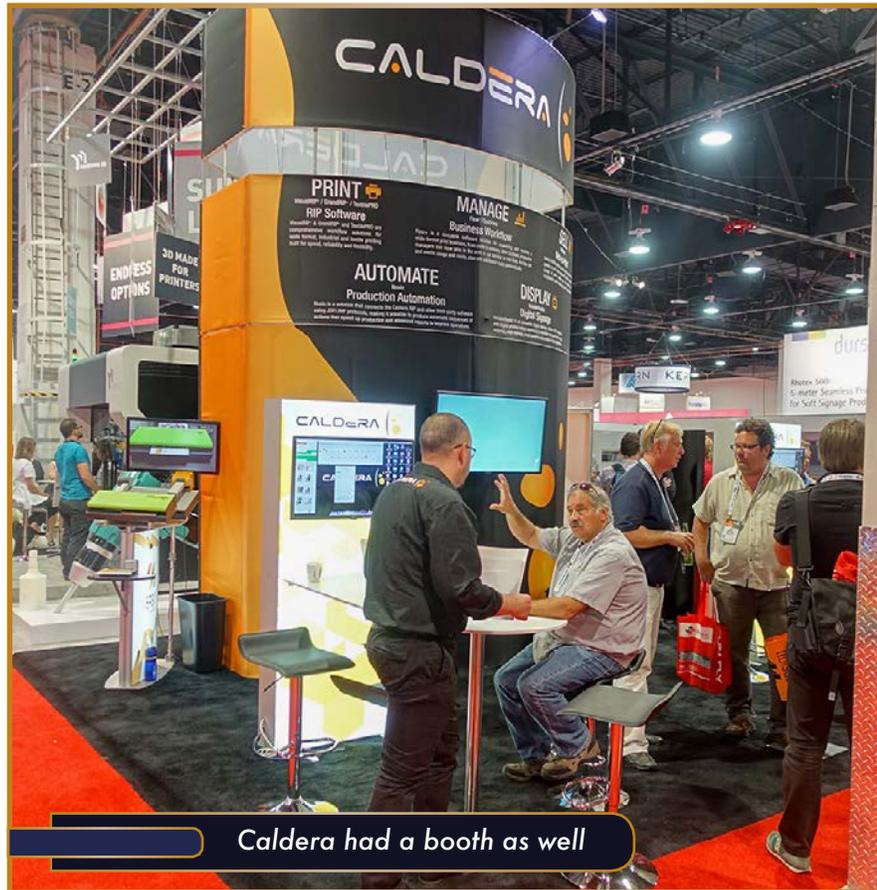
SOFTWARE

RIP SOFTWARE

Wasatch managers tend to be in the aisles or in the booths of their clients.



Ergosoft had their own booth



Caldera had a booth as well



ONYX also had their own booth

COLOR MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND SOFTWARE

Color management is essential, and you can occasionally find a color management spectrophotometer deep in the booth of a printer manufacturer. It would help if there were more focus at signage trade shows on this aspect of printing.

WEB TO PRINT AND OTHER PRINT SHOP SOFTWARE

EFI has cleverly purchase most of the software brands which are really good. Altogether I estimate that efi has the most diverse range of software for printing companies, especially those using UV-curing printers for signage.



CNC ROUTERS

In the growing market of signage, POP displays, interior decoration and furniture; where day to day digital printing is becoming popular, we can see that the use of CNC equipment is no longer just an accessory, by now it is an essential part in the development of these areas.

It is always nice to see companies exhibiting for the first time at a trade show; that's the case of the Italian company Elitron, which was their first SGIA experience.

ARISTO continues to exhibit around the world. Here at SGIA their Aristomat GL 610 was in the ROCK HILL booth.

In addition to ARISTO, AXYZ, BIESSE, ESKO Kongsberg, MULTICAM, Summa, trotec, UNIVERSAL, and ZUND were major brands exhibiting at SGIA, plus a dozen Chinese brands.



Aristo router in VANGUARD booth

FINISHING EQUIPMENT

This equipment plays an important role in the development of advertising and promotional material. If you are using a wide-format printer commercially, sooner or later you will need to coat or laminate your prints.

There were sixteen laminator brands, between coaters and laminators at the expo. If you want to see where most of these brands come from, we suggest you to read our FLAAR Reports Coaters & Laminators 2016.



ESS calender textile finishing equipment

AIR PURIFICATION SYSTEMS

The Duster 3000 was on exhibit from Island Clean Air. We have a system from this company in our US office and it really helps eliminate dust. Dust causes expensive printheads to fail (especially Toshiba tec heads).



Island Clean booth at SGIA 2016



Duster 3000

3D PRINTERS

At SGIA, if you peeked inside the Caldera RIP booth, you could enjoy the remarkable size of MASSIVit 3D technology, with the Massivit 1800 "cubicle-sized" 3D printer. Their 3D printer brochure was reader-friendly (its author and editor deserve praise).

We would like to learn which technology is used. The material used is listed and is patented. Will be nice to see this technology in the future with multi-color capability. The surfaces you see on the multi-colored samples were achieved with coating and finishing materials (which they list on a separate brochure).

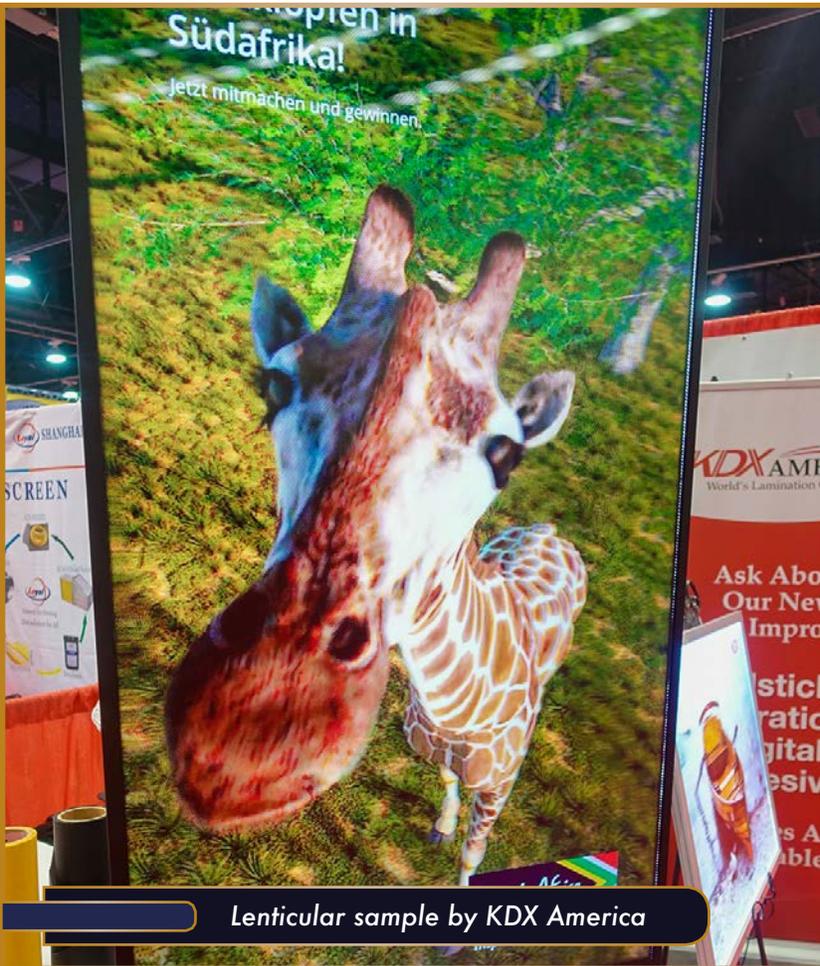
Although 3D printers were almost totally absent from 90% of the signage expos around the world (Sign Istanbul was a notable exception: had an entire co-located 3D exhibit area), there was an impressive lenticular-like display at SGIA, a video lenticular, which made the giraffe's head actually stick out (at least your eyes interpreted it as sticking out).



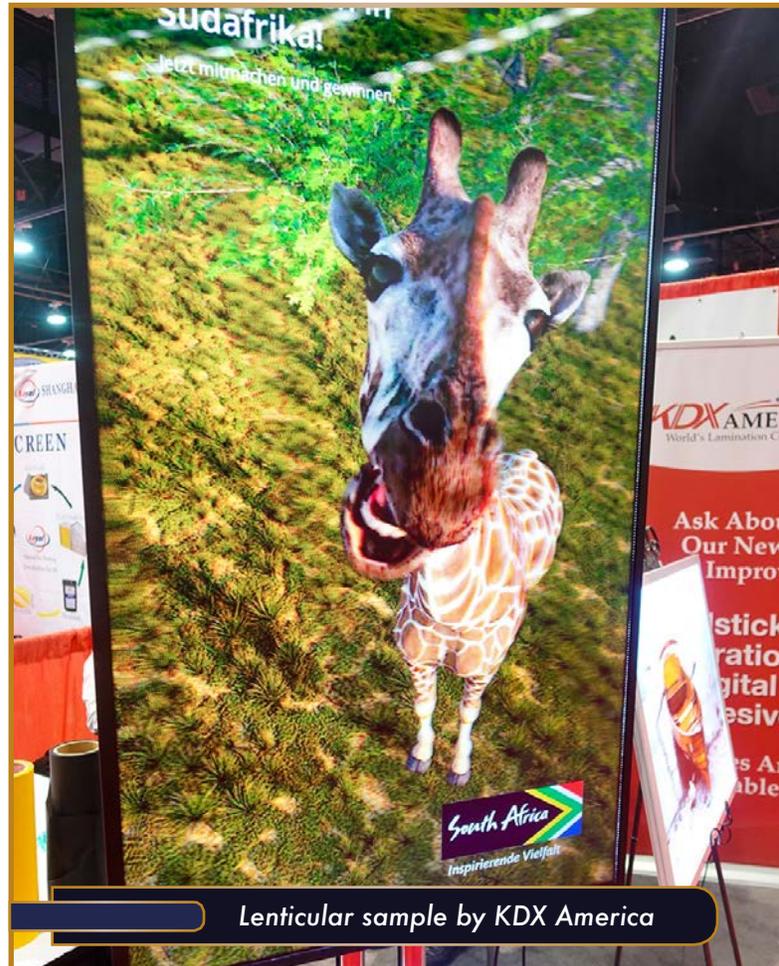
Massivit 1800 3D printer



Lenticular sample by KDX America



Lenticular sample by KDX America



Lenticular sample by KDX America

An innovative Sensient ink can produce 3D-like results which are comparable to thermo-formed but are an entirely different workflow. We would need to see the entire workflow in order to write about it.



Sensient print sample



Sensient booth at SGIA 2016



The best thermo-pressed raised relief results were in the booth of efi VUTEK.



There you could also see the equipment used for heat-forming.



The printer was also shown.

TONER PRINTERS

Nicholas flew to SGIA from lecturing at AFRICA PRINT in Johannesburg. At this expo, co-located with FESPA Africa and Sign Africa, there were many brands of office copiers up to short-run digital office presses. Xerox, Ricoh, Canon-Oce, RISO, and several other brands of toner and inkjet narrow-format digital printers were in booths of ample size here in South Africa. OKI was in lots of T-shirt booths.

But US signage trade shows lack these office printers. Only GraphExpo (which is not a signage expo) and Graphics of the Americas in Florida have office copiers and office sized short-run digital presses. SGIA had only OKI office printers.

These produce good color. Plus lots of OKI printers are used in booths displaying products for T-shirt printing. Ricoh was also present at SGIA. I would have liked to test all their toner printers.



Ricoh booth at SGIA 2016

In distinction, Sign Istanbul (where I flew to after SGIA, Glasstec, Photokina, and Tecnargilla (ceramic tile printer expo)), had lots of brands: Xerox, Ricoh, and RISO, Develop (rebranded Konica Minolta), and separately Konica Minolta itself. Plus HP Indigo in an HP distributor booth. We did test prints on several of these printers. We would expect that Graphics of the Americas 2017 will also have office printers and short-run digital presses for offices and print shops.



OKI booth at SGIA 2016



OKI ProColor toner.

SCANNERS

A booth with PARADIGM and Colortrac brand names on their back wall had several flatbed scanners in their booth. Some were perched on top of printers.



Paradigm, Kurabo, Colortrac booth at SGIA 2016



Paradigm, Kurabo, Colortrac scanner



Paradigm, Kurabo, Colortrac scanner

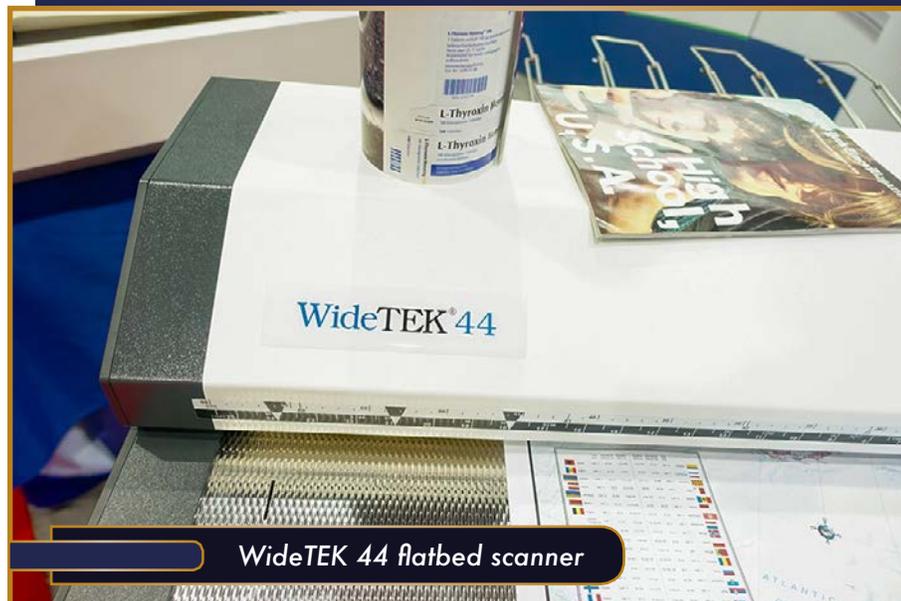
FLAAR has years of experience with scanning for fine art giclee, and scanning plants for botanical research. And of course in recent years we have experience with 3D scanners. For scanning art work we initially used a Cruse (roughly \$80,000 on up), but recently we have noticed that METIS has some remarkable offerings. In the USA METIS is sold by CGS: Trevor Haworth, President and CEO.



Bookeye Scanner



The booth of Image Access also had a WideTEK 44 scanner



WideTEK 44 flatbed scanner

15 years ago we tested an HP CAD GIS scanner and it did not always feed the material neatly enough. Since my Hellmuth family background is in architecture, I have experience working with architectural drawings that need to be scanned. And as an archaeologist I mapped entire 2000-year old Mayan cities in the jungles of Guatemala (see www.maya-archaeology.org for our research in that field many decades ago). Indeed we still have the drawings from Yaxha that we would like to scan (but we would need a scanner available to evaluate).

DISTRIBUTORS

Many printer, ink, and other manufacturers ask us for list of distributors. Since some distributors do not survive, we keep track since a manufacturer obviously wants a distributor; which is doing a good job. Many printer, ink, and media manufacturers ask FLAAR to suggest distributors to them.

Graphics One is an example of a solid survivor. They sell both in USA and for Latin America. I have visited their main office and know Dan Barefoot and his team for many years.



Graphics One booth

TRADE SHOW BOOTHS

At many printer trade shows you find booths of trade show organizers in Europe and Asia. I did not notice a single trade show booth anywhere at SGIA. But the key personnel of FESPA were at SGIA as were the key people of Sign Middle East. But none of the Chinese expos had a booth, nor did I happen to notice their personnel (but with 23,000 attendees, it is not realistic to see and meet everyone).

TRADE MAGAZINE BOOTHS

Yes, lots of trade magazine booths. Several were not staffed every time I happened to walk by, which is because the personnel are at Press Conferences or at meetings around the exhibit floor. We solve this when we exhibit at ISA: we bring two staff teams: one for evaluating products around the expo, plus personnel specifically to be in the booth every single hour!

Since about half a million people read the FLAAR Reports, and since many of our readers are Spanish-speaking, our booth personnel are bilingual or tri-lingual.



Sample of the magazine Specialist Printing Worldwide

ZONES

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OF CAR WRAPPING

Car wrapping zones are found at many expos. Often they are filled with action and spectators.



Car wrapping demonstration

SGIA AWARDS

GOLDEN IMAGE AWARDS AND PRODUCT OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Another special zone inside the show was the SGIA awards section, right across from The Garment Zone. It was interesting to see that a file was given to different printer companies and all of them printed the same images on that file, so the results could be evaluated more objectively. Unfortunately no photos were allowed inside, so we have no images of this.

PRESS CONFERENCES

We tend to prefer to be out in the aisles and learning from people in their booths, so we rarely attend press conferences, but we do attend the efi conference at every trade show.



efi conference SGIA 2016

LECTURE PROGRAM

FLAAR has been asked to lecture at trade shows around the world. The week before SGIA Dr. Hellmuth was a lecturer for the Printing association of South Africa, plus twice on the open discussion panel (hosted by FESPA). At Graphics of the Americas he also lectured on topics in English and lecture on additional topics en Español. He has lectured at Sign Middle East in Dubai, at the sign and printer expo in Panama. Many years ago, when GraphExpo and its larger iteration Print, had a manager devoted to wide-format inkjet, he lectured every year at GraphExpo.

We tend not to lecture in programs where most of the other presentations are primarily PR releases and product-push lectures. Dr. Hellmuth prefers to lecture in my university style, to provide viable information across a wide spectrum of topics, to assist print shop owners and managers, manufacturers, and distributors, to learn both the good (and the awkward) aspects of products. If you are pushing just one brand it is awkward to politely warn people about which products or processes are dubious or unreliable.



Lecture by Nicholas Hellmuth

ATTENDANCE BY DAY

Attendance tends to be okay a first day; great the second day, and a bit less final day (depending on what day of the week and in what city a lecture is). Sign Istanbul was moderate attendance first two days and then packed-solid the next two days. Trade shows in China start off with lots of people: more each day; but final day is very low attendance since people start taking down the exhibits about 10 am in the morning! Nonetheless, APPPEXPO is the largest printer trade show in the world (100+ brands of UV-curing printers with over 207 models; just of UV curable printers...).

Plus about 170+ booths of media and printable substrates at APPPEXPO (in March each year in Shanghai). So we smile when we see PR releases claiming another expo is "largest of its kind" because obviously those PR agents are stuck in their offices somewhere and are not out in the real world (flying 74,000 kilometers in a single month) attending six different printer expos that month.

Fortunately SGIA does not claim to be biggest in the world, but is reaching the point of becoming the largest printer and signage expo in North America.



General view SGIA 2016

SGIA ORGANIZATION AND SIGNAGE

All the aisles had banners hanging at the top. That always helps.

At both ends of the main aisle of the expo floor, you could find an SGIA kiosk, with four computers, where you could look up any exhibitor booth, the results showed the booth number and location on the map.

Where ISA did an awesome job was to have giant hall maps on the floor in the main aisle. And several expos have hall maps at every main entrance: that is essential and is missing in over half the expos I attended around the world this year.

SGIA had buses to the main hotel areas. We hiked several kilometers from our hotel but it is nice to see buses available. Several expos in other countries lack this polite service.

DRUPA and Glasstec (in Duesseldorf) provide free bus service every 15 minutes all morning and all afternoon from the main train station to the Messe area (which is fortunately only about 8 minutes drive from the train station).

For many expos around the world FLAAR assists the trade show organizers. So for many of these expos we know the managers and their entire team (especially for Sign Istanbul, Sign Middle East (SGI in Dubai), Sign Africa (co-located with Africa Print and FESPA Africa), and Graphics of the Americas, and APPPEXPO in Shanghai. But for SGIA we interact informally: we know one member of the board of directors. At SGIA 2016, by coincidence, while walking the aisles (where we have most of our meetings!) we ended up next to the board Chairman, Rich Thompson, several times. It was a good opportunity to see the style of leadership here: he was open to listening to our comments.



LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER

The Las Vegas Convention Center is not exactly located on The Strip, but about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the east. But it is expanding to the west, where the Riviera Hotel and Casino was located; this will make it easier to access from north side of the Strip.

Overall the Las Vegas Convention center is very spacious and organized, the press and meeting rooms are close to the expo floor, there are also restaurants in the general areas, and small food court inside the expo.



General view SGIA 2016

LAS VEGAS AS A VENUE

Las Vegas is one of the most popular venues in the USA to hold trade shows, there are two convention centers at opposite ends of the strip: Mandalay Bay at the south and Las Vegas Convention Center in the north part.

People really like going to shows in Las Vegas, since they can enjoy the best of both worlds: attend the expo during the day and be able to enjoy the nighttime activities the city has to offer.

Although the Las Vegas has the “Sin City” moniker, contrary to public belief, you can also enjoy other types of activities that do not include nudity or gambling.

Las Vegas has one of the largest selections of shows: comedy, dance performance, hypnosis, impressionists, magic, plays and musicals, production, tribute acts, variety, concerts, sports: so more than just adult shows with pole dancers.

You can also take foodie, wine and beer tours, you can go to clubs, shopping, most establishments are open until 10 pm or midnight. Or if you can take a day off, there is also the option to go to the Grand Canyon.



THE FLAAR REPORTS TEAM



Here is five of the FLAAR Reports team at APPPEXPO in Shanghai. Since this is the largest printer expo in the world it takes five of us.



Here is María Renée Ayau at FESPA Amsterdam, this show was on the same dates as APPPEXPO, and we had two teams in order to be able to cover both shows.



This is our group at our booth at ISA 2016. We brought extra people here so there would be a FLAAR person in the booth all morning and all afternoon every day.



Here is Pablo and Mike at FESPA Mexico.





Here are two photos of the FLAAR Reports team at SGIA (in the Graphics One booth, and in the efi VUTEk booth).



And here is Dr. Nicholas and Senaida (FLAAR Mesomaerica) at Sign Istanbul a few weeks ago. In the home office there are more than 20 other employees: some work on wide-format digital printers, inks, media, cutters, RIP software, etc (FLAAR Reports). A dozen are graphic designers, illustrators, professional photographers and researchers on Neotropical flora and fauna of Guatemala (FLAAR Mesoamerica). All our test print images (to print at trade shows to evaluate color quality, text and font size quality, etc), are produced by this team.



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