

Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery

in partnership with the

Euphrat Museum of Art

Art Exhibition:

Artists' Books, Art from Books, Sketchbooks

Sunnyvale Creative Art Center Gallery
550 E. Remington, Box 3707
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707

November 2 - December 11, 1999

Tuesday and Thursday 11 - 5 pm, Wednesday and Friday 1 - 5; Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

Artist walkthrough November 4, 4-5:30 pm

Artists:

Kay Kang, Catie O'Leary, and selected members of the book group of the South Bay Women's Caucus for Art: Sandra Beard, Diane Cassidy, Constance Guidotti, Judith Hoffman, Jone Manoogian, Kent Manske, Trudy Myrrh, M. J. Orcutt, Nanette Wylde.

The book arts encompass a broad range of approaches. The books may be one of a kind or part of an edition, may be constructed of materials from clay to computers. This exhibition, *Artists' Books, Art from Books, Sketchbooks*, focuses on a regional book group which promotes artists' books, and on several artists who have tied book arts into other art forms such as collage, drawing, and painting.

Artists' Books: South Bay Bookies

The South Bay Bookies is a subgroup of the South Bay Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art. Formed several years ago, it demonstrates the unique appeal of artists' books in the San Francisco Bay Area and the particular enthusiasm in the South Bay, Silicon Valley. Members meet bimonthly and host various lectures and workshops, for example on binding techniques. On exhibit are books from selected members of this group.

Jone Manoogian is organizer of the Bookies. Her accordion fold book *Star Trees: An Endangered Species* utilizes nursery rhymes about stars along with text and photos to make a statement against clear cutting our ancient forests. Many in the Bookies group touch upon personal or family concerns or upon the environment. For *A Day in My Silicon Valley Life* **Constance Guidotti** employed a copy machine and her point-and-shoot camera to depict a typical busy day involving driving, credit cards, ID cards, schedules, and mass media. *Georgie*, the book and envelopes, is made of raku fired clay, glass, and wire; artist **Sandra Beard** states it was done in response to the death of a friend who had

worked with her at a book publishing company. **M. J. Orcutt's** *Pod Books* are made from paper coated with plaster, polymer, sawdust, dirt, plantlife, debris, found objects, and paint; held up by stands made of branches, they combine the detritus of technology with the symbolic seed form.

Judith Hoffman's books have a touch of magic and humor, such as her *Instruction Manual for the Moon*, constructed from brass, formica, and found objects. *Essential Mysteries* by **Trudy Myrrh** treats subjects that puzzle scientists, artists, and philosophers, for example how interesting numerical and geometric relationships can be found in material things, or how our brains imagine. For **Diane Cassidy**, *The Tennessee Waltz* is autobiographical with both humor and pathos; it incorporates an old record player, a book, and the reading of the original poem via cassette and earphones. **Kent Manske** sees signs and symbols in everything; *Eyes* is a hand-painted wood panel and a book of duotoned photographs and digital prints, all derived from the eyes of trees he had photographed in various forests.

Nanette Wylde creates traditional books, also books utilizing computers. *Poems*, viewed on a computer workstation, might relate to our hectic lifestyle and the need to listen, breathe, slow down.

Art from Books: Catie O'Leary

Catie O'Leary's exquisite collages are made from books — and one needs to slow down to look at them well. The images are from various sources, most being steel engraving illustrations from turn of the century books. Hundreds of pieces are glued to rice paper covered book pages. The results are fairly small, often 8"x10", intricate and contemplative, with a variety of thematic elements: piano, bridge, forest, waterfall, crystals, owl.

Sketchbooks: Kay Kang

Kay Kang's *Sketchbook* series is an unusual twist for the book arts, because of her inventive language and form. Kang, originally from Korea, learned Chinese characters growing up but hated the memorization. Now she uses natural forms that remind her of these characters, but none of these are actual characters. As an artist she didn't like to use a typical sketchbook because she would then lose interest. Instead every day she would make a page, perhaps with a woodblock, often just with brush on rice paper. She called the results her sketchbook, a form of daily journal. Her *Sketchbook II* or *Sketchbook for Sketchbook* each include more than thirty of these foot-square images, comprising a painted or inked mural.

Artists' Books... was curated by the Euphrat Museum of Art in conjunction with *A Good Read: Selections from the Book Arts*, held at the Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, September 28 - November 4, 1999.

Sponsored by City of Sunnyvale, Department of Parks and Recreation, Arts & Youth Services, in collaboration with the Euphrat Museum of Art, De Anza College, Cupertino.

Contact:

For information about the exhibition, call the Euphrat Museum of Art at (408) 864-8836.

To schedule tours or for gallery information, call the Creative Arts Center Gallery at (408) 730-7731.

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