



NEWS RELEASE

September 18, 1999

For Immediate Release

Press release on art exhibition:

A Good Read, Selections from the Book Arts

September 28 - November 4, 1999

Museum Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11-4; Tuesday evening 6-8; Saturday 11-2.
Open to tour groups by appointment.

Reception: Tuesday, October 19, 6-8, reception with artist presentation

Artists:

Etel Adnan, Francisco X. Alarcon, Enrique Chagoya, Julie Chen, Roberto Chiarito, Gabriel A. Ella, Guillermo Gomez-Peña, Ghada Jamal, Jeffrey Kao, Amos Paul Kennedy Jr., Bita Kavehzadeh, Lisa Kokin, Marlene Larson, Debra J. Lewis, Tobie Lurie, Jone Manoogian, Kent Manske, Nance O'Banion, Bonnie O'Connell, Felicia Rice, Ray Rice, Elba Rosario Sánchez, Carla Trefethen Saunders, Karen Sjolholm, Nanette Wylde.

A Good Read presents books as a broadly defined art form, in which a book might be defined simply as having at least one page. The artwork varies from limited edition fine letterpress work to one-of-a-kind books. The exhibition ranges over diverse artists' conceptions of book art today, relevant traditional examples, different cultural perspectives, and interactive forms, such as electronic books.

Moving Parts Press in Santa Cruz offers *Codex Espangliensis from Columbus to the Border Patrol*, with text by **Guillermo Gómez-Peña**, imagery by **Enrique Chagoya**, and bookwork by **Felicia Rice**. Inspired by pre-Hispanic codices of Central America, the book is letterpress-printed on Amatl paper and expands in accordian fold to 31'. It tells a story of cultural hybrids and political collisions through a montage of contemporary text, cartoons, and pre-hispanic drawings. Contributors to other Moving Parts Press books on exhibit include **Francisco X. Alarcon**, **Roberto Chiarito**, **Ray Rice**, and **Elba Rosario Sánchez**.

Bonnie O'Connell, from the University of Nebraska, also displays letterpress edition works, such as *A Decade of Kooser Valentines*, as well as her well known offset artist's book, *The Anti-Warhol Museum*. In addition there are wall books, unique bound books, and her unusual *The Other Mom: A California Postcard Novella*, created from xeroxed postcards.

Fragments by **Tobie Lurie** is part of his "synesthesia" art which combines music, poetry, painting, and per-

formance. His books have visual and sound elements as the poetry is scored and meant to be performed. Paintings contain poetry and musical scores, so they can also be read and performed. Paintings, books, and cassettes form a lively grouping, only enlivened more by a performance by Lurie.

Gabriel A. Ella did the printing, binding, and letterpress work (a five-year project) for *Mi Ultimo Adios* by José Rizal, a national hero in the Phillipines, who wrote the poetry in prison before he was shot.

The Money Company by **Jeffrey Kao** consists of sixteen IRIS prints of play money which an uncle made for him when he was a child; it is handbound and contained in a clam shell box with an accompanying document *The Paper Novelties Catalogue*.

Etel Adnan's beautiful books are of calligraphy, watercolor imagery and brushwork. **Ghada Jamal** transformed a garden book into a reminiscence of Lebanon in her *To Everything There is a Season*. Both artists are originally from Lebanon, and both participated in the provocative 1994 exhibition *Forces of Change: Artists of the Arab World*.

Many of the books are quite inventive. **Carla Trefethen Saunders** constructed one book from an old wine crate, another from a roll of film. **Debra J. Lewis's** *Hearts* incorporates natural materials. **Marlene Larson's** book is encrusted in resin. **Bitá Kavehzadeh's** *Rare Earth* is reflective of the gems to be found among the castoffs of urban streets.

A number of the artists are associated with book arts programs. **Nance O'Banion** teaches at CCAC; her *Alchemy Series: Stains* is earthy, with touches of humor. **Karen Sjöholm**, who teaches book arts at J. F. Kennedy University, has created books in the form of quilts and even a first aid kit, *Personal Safety*. **Kent Manske** and **Nanette Wylde**, instructors at Foothill College, between them exhibit perhaps the largest and smallest of the books. **Amos Paul Kennedy Jr.**, who teaches at different universities in the midwest and also for youth programs in the inner city, presents a cut-and-fold work revealing the essence of how one can make a book.

Jone Manoogian works from themes of family life. Manoogian chairs the active Bookies group of the South Bay chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art. Selected artists from this chapter will be exhibited in the companion show at the Creative Arts Center Gallery in Sunnyvale (see below).

History Book Suitcase, which utilizes an actual suitcase, is an example of the sculptural, found-object artworks created by **Lisa Kokin**, book artist and recent recipient of a California Arts Council Visual Art Fellowship.

Califia Books in San Francisco is a major local venue for artists' books. Artwork by **Julie Chen** of Flying Fish Press in Berkeley can often be seen there. *Bon Bon Mots* is an exquisite recent work which consists of a hand-made box containing six small variously shaped books.

The exhibition was curated by Jan Rindfleisch, working with Diana Argabrite, Michael Day, Kent Mansky, Julian Gómez, Karen Sjöholm, Flo Oy Wong.

Exhibition in conjunction with *Artists' Books, Art from Books, Sketchbooks*, curated by the Euphrat Museum of Art, presented at the Sunnyvale Creative Arts Center Gallery, Sunnyvale, November 2 - December 11, 1999.

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