NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD *presents*

Altered States

The Anatomy of a Book

Issue 11 . March 2016

ALTERED STATES

For years the book has served as an object of information, containing knowledge and entertainment within its written words. However, as texts become readily available through different medium such as the e-book and the internet, the role of the book has evolved beyond its traditional role. First conceived by artist Dan Graham in the late 1960s, the idea of books as a new spatiotemporal object begun its reinvention, breathing new life to the book - the exploration and usage of books beyond their function and structure. The results of this phenomenon are altered books, artworks or sculptures created from physical books. The artist carves, paints, and repurposes pulp to create startling installations, signalling an evolution in our understanding and interactions with books. An altered book varies from artist to artist, depending on their artistic direction. Essentially, the motivation would be to challenge the traditional restrictions of the static book.

Through the issues of the last ten months, we've explored the unique functions and characteristics of each anatomy of the book. As we come to the end of ***The Anatomy of a Book*** series, we invite you to reflect on the aesthetical possibilities of the book as a whole, and in its individual sections. Look out for ***The Anatomy of a Book*** exhibition at Central Public Library in April as we revive the past issues and artefacts once again for you to piece together your own narrative.

Reference:
John Herschend & Will Rogan. The Thing The Book: A Monument to the Book as an Object. Chronicle: San Francisco, 2014. Print.

Poland

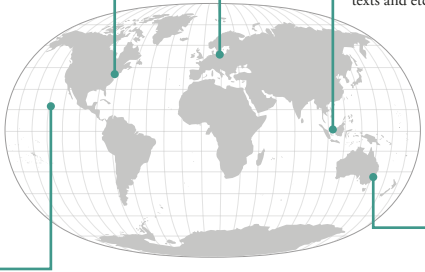
Book Art Museum
http://www.book.art.pl/index.php/en/
Located in Lodz, Poland, the Book Art Museum houses a collection of over 30 years of artefacts related to books, book making, and book sculptures.

Singapore

Shubigi Rao
http://www.shubigi.com/
Shubigi Rao is a visual artist based in Singapore with an interest in libraries. In the process of creating her installations, she works with handmade books, texts and etchings.

USA

23 Sandy Gallery
http://www.23sandy.com/About.html
This fine art gallery exhibits works of native Portland artists as well as national artists dealing with book and paper arts.



Hawaii, USA

Jacqueline Rush Lee
http://www.jacquelinerushlee.com/
Intrigued by the possibility of books as intimate, cultural and personal objects, Jacqueline Rush Lee turns books into aesthetic works of art.

Australia

Nicholas Jones
http://www.bibliopath.org/artwork/
Employing the methods of folding, carving, sewing, and sculpting, Melbourne-based book sculptor, Nicholas Jones, creates altered book artworks.

There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them.

– Ray Bradbury

RECOMMENDED READS

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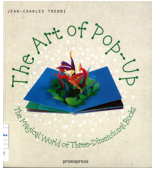
Playing with Pop-Ups:
The Art of Dimensional, Moving Paper Designs
By Helen Hiebert
Quarry Books, Beverly, Massachusetts, USA, 2014
Call Number: English 745.54 HIE -[REC]



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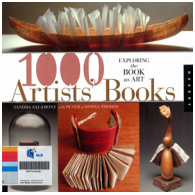
The Thing The Book:
A Monument to the Book as an Object
By John Herschend & Will Rogan
Chronicle, San Francisco, USA, 2014
Call Number: English 700.49 THI -[ART]



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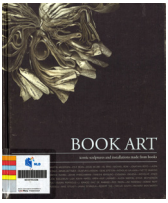
1000 Artists' Books:
Exploring the Book as Art
By Sandra Salamony with Peter & Donna Thomas
Quarry Books, Beverly, Massachusetts, USA, 2012
Call Number: English 700.922 SAL -[ART]



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Book Art: Iconic Sculptures and
Installations Made from Books
By Christine Antaya and Paul Sloman
Page One, Singapore, 2011
Call Number: English 709.05 BOO -[ART]

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