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Minnesota Center for Book Arts to Celebrate 25th Year

Series of events set to appeal to the broad audience MCBA serves

(June 2, 2010) MINNEAPOLIS—Jeff Rathermel, long time artistic director and interim executive director, announced today the Minnesota Center for Book Arts (MCBA) events that will mark its 25th year. First, a recognition event for founders and key supporters of MCBA will be held in early June. On June 25, the limited edition artist collaboration, “From Start To Here: 25 Years of Minnesota Center for Book Arts,” will be unveiled. A benefit Art Mart sale is also planned. The celebration culminates with an open house Saturday, June 26 that welcomes the community to enjoy fun-for-all-ages activities, artists’ demonstrations, studio tours, shop specials and more.

“MCBA has been active from the start in championing the various aspects of book art to a highly diverse community,” said Rathermel. “From established artists who rely on MCBA for studio space, to arts patrons who collect artist’s books and fine press prints, we are a welcoming space. We also deliver arts education in our community that reaches artists at every age and skill level. This series of events gives us a chance to pause and recognize the entire experience to date and welcome new visitors to experience MCBA for the first time.”

Many events on Saturday are geared toward families with school-age children. Artists from the International Cartoonist Conspiracy will be on hand to help teens make their very own mini-comic. Children can also construct birthday cake books with Ellen Ferrari, preschool art educator.

Activities for adults will also be available. These will include printing a commemorative bookmark, taking a guided tour and observing artist demonstrations on topics such as papermaking and book repair.

Target Corporation is the presenting sponsor of the June 26 community open house, which is free and open to the public. Tickets are available for purchase to the unveiling of “From Start To Here: 25 Years of Minnesota Center for Book Arts” and the accompanying Art Mart on Friday, June 25.

About Minnesota Center for Book Arts

Minnesota Center for Book Arts opened doors to the public in 1985 and celebrates its 25th year in 2010. The largest and most comprehensive center of its kind in the nation, MCBA celebrates the book as a vibrant contemporary art form that takes many shapes. From the traditional crafts of papermaking, letterpress printing and bookbinding to experimental artmaking and self-publishing techniques, MCBA supports the limitless creative evolution of book arts.

The mission of Minnesota Center for Book Arts is to advance the book as a vital contemporary art form, preserve the traditional crafts of bookmaking, inspire diverse artists and learners, and engage audiences in educational, creative and interpretive experiences. Learn more at <http://www.mnbookarts.org>.