



Minnesota Center for Book Arts

at Open Book
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Book Arts Terms to Know

Creativity is encouraged and commonly on display

Today, artists from many creative fields adapt book arts forms and materials to communicate. Letterpress, typography, bookbinding, papermaking, artist's books, works of sculpture and more all continue to help define and break up what is considered book arts. The Shop at MCBA has informative books on this topic, including "The Printmaking Bible" by Ann d'Arcy Hughes and Hebe Vernon-Morris.

Accordion: a binding style.

Artist's Book: a work of art realized in the form of a book. Published in small editions, or as one-of-a-kind objects (uniques), artist's books have a wide range of forms: bound and unbound, scrolls, fold-outs, concertinas, pop-ups or a collection of prints to name a few.

Artist Proof: prints not included in the numbered edition. Traditionally used to compare and ensure continuity and similarity of color and tone in the image by the artists or master printer when printing the edition.

Binding: techniques and materials used, often at the side (or spine) of the book, to hold it together.

Broadside: paper printed on one side only and typically used as a poster to announce some event or to combine text and graphics.

Edition: a set of prints produced from the same image, the quantity of which is written in the bottom left-hand corner of the work. This number does not include artist proofs.

Marbling: a printmaking technique that generates images that emulate patterns within marble.

Metal Type: rectangular metal blocks with raised characters on one surface, used for printing.

Overprinting: colors are printed one on top of the other in a layered or multicolored image.

Paper: a material made of cellulose pulp often made up of wood, rags or grasses.

Printmaking: the art of using a printing plate or stamp to create one or a series of multiple originals called prints. A work of art can be recreated in great quantity from a single image usually prepared from a plate.

Proof: trial print produced to assess the color, balance and registration of a print.

Screen: a mesh stretched over a frame of varying size. A stencil is created on the mesh. A component of screen printing.

Screen Printing: a technique that uses a squeegee to push ink through a screen onto the paper or material. Also known as serigraphy or silkscreen.

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>.