



Minnesota Center for Book Arts

at Open Book
1011 Washington Ave. S.
Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 215-2520
www.mnbookarts.org

Minnesota Center for Book Arts: 25 Events from the Past 25 Years

Highlights of signature moments from MCBA's past

MCBA is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a series of events in June. One highlight is the publication of "From Start To Here: 25 Years of Minnesota Center for Book Arts," a commemorative portfolio of prints by artists who have been associated with MCBA throughout its history.

- 1985 Opening Celebration**
Minnesota Center for Book Arts opens in a revamped warehouse on North Third Street in downtown Minneapolis.
- 1986 Japanese Papermaking Master Workshop**
MCBA presents a workshop with Timothy Barrett, one of the preeminent Western practitioners of Japanese hand papermaking, later recognized as a MacArthur Fellow.
- 1987 MCBA/Jerome Book Arts Fellowship**
MCBA and the Jerome Foundation award the first series of book arts fellowships. This program, now in its 10th bi-annual series, supports emerging book artists in the creation of contemporary book arts.
- 1988 First Winter Book**
"Staggerford's Indian" by Jon Hassler and illustrated by Susan Nees is the first in the annual series of fine press and artist books published by MCBA. The series is created to highlight the work of prominent Minnesota authors and artists.
- 1989 MCBA Hosts Children's Book Arts Festival**
The festival celebrates the designation of 1989 as The Year of the Young Reader by the Library of Congress and kicks off MCBA's expanded focus on youth programs.
- 1990 "A Kelmscott Centennial"**
This exhibition and series of workshops celebrates 100 years of the work of William Morris and the Kelmscott Press.
- 1991 MCBA's James and Marilynn Alcott Reference Library and Archive Established**
- 1992 "Off the Shelf and Online: Computers Move the Book Arts into Twenty-First Century Design"**
This exhibition documents the emerging influence of computer technology on the broad field of the book arts.
- 1993 MCBA Hosts The Guild of Book Workers Exhibition, "Fine Printers Finely Bound Too"**
- 1994 Art and Language: Re-Reading the Boundless Book**
A symposium focuses on language and new book arts work and on the development of book arts criticism and theory.
- 1995 "Latin American Book Arts"**
This exhibit offers North Americans a rare chance to witness the contemporary explosion of work by book artists with cultural links to Central and South America.
- 1996 "A Decade of Granary Books"**
Steven Clay, curator of the exhibit and owner of Granary Books, joins MCBA to kick off exhibit opening.
- 1997 AIGA 50 Books/50 Covers**
MCBA partners with American Institute of Graphic Arts to host 50 Books/50 Covers.
- 1998 Contemporary German Book Arts**
From the 15th century innovation of Johannes Gutenberg through the invention of lithography to contemporary digital imaging, Germany has a long, rich history of printing and bookmaking.



Minnesota Center for Book Arts

at Open Book
1011 Washington Ave. S.
Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 215-2520
www.mnbookarts.org

- 1999 "Speaking Volumes: The Art of the Book"**
MCBA is invited to reach new audiences through an exhibition of artist's books in the Fine Arts Pavilion at the Minnesota State Fair.
- 2000 MCBA Moves to Its New Home at Open Book**
The nation's first book and literary arts center, Open Book was envisioned and built through the collaborative efforts of MCBA, The Loft Literary Center and Milkweed Editions and was a pioneer in establishing a new cultural corridor along the downtown Minneapolis riverfront.
- 2001 "Women of the Book: Jewish Artists, Jewish Themes"**
Co-hosted with the Jewish Community Center of Minneapolis, the exhibit presents an exciting and diverse selection of work united through an adherence to Jewish themes: family rituals, traditions and liturgy, cultural memory and identity.
- 2002 First Annual Book Art Festival**
An extension of The Shop at MCBA, this art fair creates an opportunity for local and regional book and print artists to share their practices with, and sell work directly to, the public.
- 2003 Richard Minsky, Founder of the Center for Book Arts in New York City, Hosts a Gallery Talk**
Minsky's visit coincides with the opening of his exhibit at MCBA entitled "The Bill of Rights."
- 2004 Walker Without Walls: Artists' Books: No Reading Required**
During the Walker Art Center's renovation, MCBA becomes a satellite venue with a collaborative exhibit featuring the expansive artist book collection of the museum's library.
- 2005 "Spot On: The Art of Zines and Graphic Novels"**
An exhibition that highlights independent thought, freedom of the press, alternative narrative styles and the diversity of artistic communication.
- 2006 "Dafatir: Contemporary Iraqi Book Art"**
In partnership with Carleton College, MCBA presents an exhibition that highlights the flourishing of book arts in modern Iraq and celebrates the persistence of the artistic impulse in a nation torn by war and tyranny.
- 2007 "We, Too, Are Book Artists"**
Curated by Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr., this exhibition, the first national survey of its kind, showcases the work of African American artists using the book format and related book arts to communicate humanistic responsibility, social justice, cultural consciousness and spirituality.
- 2008 "Winter Ink"**
The 20th in the Winter Book series, "Winter Ink" features work by contemporary Laotian poet Brian Thao Worra, complemented by abstract ink drawings in the style of sumi-e ink painting and handmade Japanese paper in the styles of traditional Laotian textiles.
- 2009 The MCBA Prize**
The inauguration of MCBA's international artist book award, designed to celebrate the diversity of the book arts and to honor the best artist's books of the preceding two years.

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>.