

# FORM+CONTENT GALLERY

For release March 5, 2015

## COMMON DENOMINATORS

An Invitational Exhibition of Five Book Artists

### What

An invitational exhibition of five nationally recognized book artists: **Inge Bruggeman, Daniel Essig, Karen Kunc, Sara Langworthy and Gaylord Schanilec**, curated by Form+Content members Jody Williams and Jim Dryden.

### When

Thursday, June 18, 2015 – Saturday, July 25, 2015

Gallery hours: Thursday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 pm  
and by appointment

### Opening Reception

Saturday, June 20, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

### Closing Reception / Book Arts Art Crawl

Friday, July 24, 2015 from 6 to 9 pm. In conjunction with the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and the Walker Art Center Library.  
All events are free and open to the public

### Where

Form+Content Gallery  
Whitney Square Building  
210 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 104  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

### Information

Gallery: 612/436-1151

[formandcontent@gmail.com](mailto:formandcontent@gmail.com)

<http://www.formandcontent.org>

### Description

Form+Content Gallery presents **Common Denominators**, an exhibition of five nationally prominent book artists who consider form and content in equal measure. Honoring traditional book structures as they create, their interplay of form and content informs complex, extensive bodies of work.

**Inge Bruggeman, Daniel Essig, Karen Kunc, Sara Langworthy and Gaylord Schanilec** each display a deep understanding of the structure and form of traditional books, whether creating printed and bound editions, sculptures that include or evoke book forms, or installations that challenge our expectations for the book.

(description continues)

(**Common Denominators** description, continued)

The **Common Denominators** artists delve into history, the natural environment, elemental substances, and books themselves as sources for content, expressed with a range of imagery from abstract to representational, augmented with excerpted texts, their own writing, or no words at all.

**Inge Bruggeman** draws inspiration from the history of the book and its place within contemporary culture, recognizing that a book "is not a stagnant place, but one that is in constant flux and re-evaluation... Letter, word, image, page, structure — these elements can combine in a plethora of enigmatic and evocative ways." Her works, from letterpress books to room-sized installations, travel both backward and forward in time, questioning the past and imagining the future.

**Daniel Essig** surrounds himself with small objects that he has collected over many years, including seed pods, rocks, bones, shells, bits of rusty metal, nails, animal teeth, and fossils. "I often sit in the room and scan my collection, seeking just the right object to inspire a new book or sculpture." Essig uses fourth century Ethiopian style Coptic Binding, "the heart of my work," to create books with specimens in their wooden covers, or as components for sculptural pieces - often in the mouths of whimsical fish and birds.

The content of **Karen Kunc's** books complements a body of work she has developed over many years with printmaking, and relates to forms abstracted from the natural world that can be considered on a cosmic or microscopic scale. Influenced by "nature and science, spiritual and religious thought, art historical and modern icons, immigration narratives and native myths," her work "imaginatively conceives of earth, air, and water and asks questions about natural phenomenon."

Elemental substances such as earth, ice, and air likewise provide **Sara Langworthy** with starting points. "I want to call attention to beauty that might otherwise go unnoticed: the grey of wet concrete seen through holes in a leaf on the sidewalk, light reflected on the wall in midafternoon." Observational drawings and reading expand her content, which continues to evolve at the press. "I work back and forth between written words and pictorial elements; images are inspired by a text, and texts grow from images."

Living and working near Lake Pepin, WI, **Gaylord Shanilec** has been inspired by the surrounding woods, the Mississippi river, and the creatures inhabiting both. These have driven a 15-year trilogy of sorts, culminating with *Lac Des Pleurs*: "The idea of a lake 25 miles long with the Mississippi River running through it, well, it took the breath away from a flat-lander like myself." His books' color wood engravings convey detailed observations and comprehensive insights into his environment.

#### **Artist Biographies:**

**Inge Bruggeman** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Nevada, Reno and Director of Graphic Arts at the Black Rock Press. She taught previously at the University of California, Santa Barbara, the Oregon College of Art & Craft, the Pacific NW College of Art, and Columbia College in Chicago. Her artist's books, prints, fine press publications under her imprint INK-A! Press, and other text-based art all revolve around the idea of the book as object, artifact and cultural icon. During a residency in Marseille, France, Bruggeman produced an artist's book which won the *Premio Lia 2014* book award in Guadalajara, Mexico. Other honors include an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Oregon Arts Commission. Her work is collected and shown internationally and she enjoys lecturing and teaching workshops nationally and abroad.

<http://www.ingebroggeman.com/About-Inge-Bruggeman>

(artist biographies continue)

(*Common Denominators* artist biographies, continued)

**Daniel Essig** is a studio artist and instructor living in Asheville, North Carolina, who has taught book arts workshops at Penland, Anderson Ranch, Iowa City Center for Books, Columbia College, and Oregon College of Art and Craft, among other venues. He has received a North Carolina Visual Arts Fellowship Grant. Essig exhibits his work nationally, and his work is in numerous private and public collections; recently his work has been purchased by the Renwick Museum of the Smithsonian and the Charlotte M. Smith Collection of Miniature Books at the University of Iowa Libraries. Many of Essig's sculptural pieces are featured in *The Penland Book of Handmade Books*.

<http://danielessig.com/>

**Karen Kunc** is an award winning artist and teacher. Her recognitions include Fulbright Scholar Awards to Finland and Bangladesh, two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, and a Nebraska Arts Council Fellowship. Her works have been shown in exhibitions nationally and internationally and are held in numerous private, public and university collections. Kunc has taught workshops around the world, in Egypt, Italy, Finland, Bangladesh, Poland, Japan, France, Mexico, Iceland; and she has lectured as a visiting artist to over 200 institutions. In 2014 she opened Constellation Studios, in Lincoln, Nebraska, as a creative work-site for print, paper, and book, inviting artists for residencies, workshops, collaborations. Kunc explores inventive color abstractions of the natural and human-fashioned world in her prints and artist books, creating ideas of 'strange beauty'.

<http://www.karen-kunc.com/>

**Sara Langworthy** lives and works in Iowa City, IA, where she maintains a studio and is Lecturer in Printing and Book Art at the University of Iowa Center for the Book. She previously lived in Minneapolis, where she held artist's residencies at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts and the Highpoint Center for Printmaking. While at MCBA, she printed two of their annual *Winter Books*, receiving the Minnesota Fine Press Book Award for her work on *Distance from the Sun* by Louis Jenkins. She also was the recipient of an Artist Book Production Grant from the Women's Studio Workshop in Rosendale, NY, and an Emerging Educator Award from the College Book Art Association. Langworthy teaches workshops nationally, and her artist books and broadsides are in numerous national and international collections, including The Library of Congress, The Walker Art Center, and Yale University.

<http://slangworthy.com/artist-books->

As an artist, writer, letterpress printer, designer and illustrator, **Gaylord Schanilec** has set the standard for contemporary artist's books over the last 30 years. His highly collected and unique fine press books explore his interests and experiences as well as his hometown landscape and community. From farming culture and the rivers of the Mississippi, to an exhaustive inventory of the 24 species of trees surrounding his Stockholm, Wisconsin home and studio, Schanilec's wood engravings illustrate local landscapes, historical anecdotes and natural science investigations. Schanilec has also explored subjects far from home, including two books about New York City. Schanilec's current project, *Lac Des Pleurs*, is a study of the 22-mile length of the upper Mississippi River known as Lake Pepin. (bio used with permission from Groveland Gallery)

[http://www.midnightpapersales.com/pages/schanilec\\_main.html](http://www.midnightpapersales.com/pages/schanilec_main.html)

Curators **Jim Dryden** and **Jody Williams**, both Form+Content members, previously worked together on ***Connections***, a collaborative artists' book and exhibition of the same name at the gallery in 2012.

**Press Images:** The following press images are attached to this email; high-resolution jpgs can be downloaded from this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zrxrtq2f5tzp4a2/AACmXPhgvOhdBLhTs5C1UICpa?dl=0>

**Common Denominators** Press Image List

Inge Bruggeman #1

*A Partial View of an Incomplete Story*

letterpress print with gouache, pencil and thread

22 x 26 x 2"

2010

Inge Bruggeman #2

Detail of *A Partial View of an Incomplete Story*

letterpress print with gouache, pencil and thread

22 x 26 x 2"

2010

Inge Bruggeman #3

*the infinite between us*

mixed media artist's book with etching, serigraphy, monotype, letterpress and pochoir

8 ¼ x 6 ¼ x ¼" (closed)

2011

Daniel Essig #1

*Needle Nose*

carved and painted mahogany, handmade paper, mica, metal

Ethiopian and Coptic bindings

33 x 13 x 8"

Daniel Essig #2

*Fetish-Painted Sturgeon*

Mulberry wood, hand carved yew, antique text, milk paint, mica, fossil

Ethiopian and Coptic binding

7 x 7 ½ x 4"

Daniel Essig #3

*Tributary-Italy*

Italian Olive, mahogany, milk paint, handmade paper, mica, antique text, relics, nails

Ethiopian and Coptic bindings

23 ½ x 24 ½ x 6 ½"

Karen Kunc #1

*Aqua Alta*

woodcut, mokuhanga woodcut, watercolor, acrylic, ink, wax on Japanese papers, limp cover long-stitch binding of indigo Cave Paper with sanded title and ornament

19 ¼ x 18 ¾" folded, 10 ¼ x 38" open

2011

Karen Kunc #2

*Incessant White Noise*

woodcut & letterpress on Japanese Nishinouchi, digital print on Asuka, irregular accordion folding; folio of covered boards with etching & mixed media papers

11 x 5" closed, 11 x 35" open

2013

(press image list continues)

(Common Denominators Press Image List, continued)

Karen Kunc #3

*Fractured Terrain*

line etching, polymer relief, mokuhanga woodcut, letterpress, on Japanese Nishinouchi

6 x 5 ¾" closed, 6 x 62" open

2011

Sara Langworthy #1

*lines avoid each other*

letterpress, metal type, linoleum, photopolymer

14 x 18"

2015

Sara Langworthy #2

*lines as something real*

letterpress, metal type, linoleum, photopolymer plates

14 x 18"

2015

Sara Langworthy #3

*join and shuttle*

letterpress, photopolymer plates

9 x 12"

2014

Gaylord Shanilec #1

*a dead drum, from Lac Des Pleurs*

color wood engraving

10 x 17"

2015

Gaylord Shanilec #2

*Gull & Buoy, from Lac Des Pleurs*

color wood engraving

Image = 5 x 5"

2015

Gaylord Shanilec #3

*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos, from Lac Des Pleurs*

color wood engraving

10 x 17"

2015