



Minnesota Center for Book Arts
At Open Book
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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High-resolution images available upon request.

**ESTHER K. SMITH EXHIBITION AND BOOK SIGNING
AT MINNESOTA CENTER FOR BOOK ARTS**

WHAT: Minnesota Center for Book Arts (MCBA) proudly welcomes Esther K. Smith, co-founder of Purgatory Pie Press in New York, NY. An exhibition of her work will be on display in MCBA's studios, and she will be signing copies of her book *How to Make Books* at The Shop at MCBA on Sunday, May 18.

Purgatory Pie Press is "a sanctuary for artists, designers and typographers who are seduced by the kiss of type and the touch of metal... the New York-based press has long been at the forefront of publishing artists' books and ephemera." (*Steven Heller, author and design historian*) Founded by Smith and husband Dikko Faust, the press is known for its innovative collaborative letterpress limited editions and books. Their work is in the collections at MoMA, the Whitney, the National Gallery of Art, Cooper Hewitt, the Tate, and many other international institutions. Smith and Faust teach book arts, graphic design and letterpress at NYC's Center for Book Arts, Cooper Union & City University of New York.

How to Make Books (Random House) is Smith's "disquisition and handbook on the D.I.Y. nitty-gritty of [the] art and craft [of handmade books]" (*Heller*) Fold a one-minute zine. Stitch a luscious leather journal. Choose luxurious papers for a sumptuous sketchbook. Or make a book with recycled envelopes and brown paper bags. Are you a writer? A scrapbook maker? A political activist? A postcard collector? Smith helps you find your inner bookbinder. Try time-tested techniques with quirky, artful illustrations and personable instructions. "This witty, stylish book will inspire anyone to follow the clear, illustrated and engaging instructions to make personal and profound books." (*Margaret Richardson, design editor and teacher*)

WHEN: **BOOK SIGNING: Sunday, May 18, 12:00–1:30pm** at The Shop at MCBA
EXHIBITION: On display May 15 through June 16 in the MCBA studios

WHERE: Minnesota Center for Book Arts
1011 Washington Avenue South, First Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55415

HOURS: Mondays – Saturdays: 10 am to 5 pm
Tuesdays open late: 10 am to 9 pm
Sundays: 12 noon to 4 pm

Minnesota Center for Book Arts background

As the largest and most comprehensive center of its kind in the nation, Minnesota Center for Book Arts celebrates the book as a vibrant contemporary art form that takes many shapes. From the traditional crafts of papermaking, letterpress printing and hand bookbinding to experimental artmaking and self-publishing techniques, MCBA supports the limitless creative evolution of book arts. MCBA provides workshops in the book arts for adults, teens, youth, families and teachers. Our artist programs include residencies, fellowships, an artists' cooperative, exhibitions, lectures, and studio space and equipment rental. The Shop at MCBA features work by over 140 consignment artists along with bookmaking supplies and gift items. MCBA is located in the Open Book building in downtown Minneapolis, along with The Loft Literary Center, Rosalux Gallery and Milkweed Editions.

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