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**MINNESOTA CENTER FOR BOOK ARTS ANNOUNCES  
FIVE FINALISTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS' BOOK PRIZE**

Minnesota Center for Book Arts is proud to announce the selection of five finalists for the inaugural MCBA Prize.

A new biennial initiative from Minnesota Center for Book Arts, the MCBA Prize is the first in the United States to recognize excellence in book art from across the field and around the world. The winning artist also receives a \$2000 cash prize. A jury selected the five finalists from a field of 113 submissions from 10 nations around the world. "All of the entries embodied our goals for the MCBA Prize: to recognize book art from across disciplines and to celebrate the diversity of the art form," MCBA Artistic Director Jeff Rathermel stated. "In reviewing the submissions, we were impressed by the quality of work presented, the array of creative methods used, and the mix of traditional and contemporary approaches."

The five finalists for the 2009 MCBA Prize are (in alphabetical order):

*Panorama* by Julie Chen (Berkeley, California)  
*Avalanche* by Clifton Meador (Chicago, Illinois)  
*Requiem* by Jan Owen (Belfast, Maine)  
*Bomb* by Simon Redington (London, United Kingdom)  
*Durs Grünbein: 26°57.3'N, 142°16.8'E* by Veronika Schäpers (Tokyo, Japan)

To view images of the five finalists' works and all other submitted works, visit [www.mnbookarts.org/mcbaprize](http://www.mnbookarts.org/mcbaprize).

Jurors were selected to reflect varied perspectives and considerable expertise in book arts: artist, designer and educator Scott McCarney; artist and Arizona State University professor John Risseuw; and Wellesley College special collections librarian Ruth Rogers.

The five finalists' work will be on display at MCBA beginning July 21, with the announcement of the winning work at the MCBA Prize celebration evening on **Saturday, July 25, 2009**. The evening includes a social hour with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, the award ceremony and presentation, then champagne and a dessert buffet for attendees, artists and special guests. Tickets for the celebration evening and award ceremony are available through MCBA's website ([www.mnbookarts.org](http://www.mnbookarts.org)) or by calling 612 215 2520.

The award ceremony and celebration evening conclude MCBA's **Book Art Biennial**, a day of academic presentations and panel discussions on the role of art — and artists' books in particular — as agents of social change, advocacy and activism, as well as the contemporary practice of and current issues in book arts. More information about Book Art Biennial is available on MCBA's website ([www.mnbookarts.org/biennial](http://www.mnbookarts.org/biennial)).

**BACKGROUND: Minnesota Center for Book Arts (MCBA)**

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 through book arts workshops and programming adults, teens, youth, families and teachers. MCBA is located in the Open Book building in downtown Minneapolis, along with The Loft Literary Center, Rosalux Gallery and Milkweed Editions. For more information, visit [www.mnbookarts.org](http://www.mnbookarts.org).

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