



Minnesota Center for Book Arts  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: October 30, 2009  
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**SIX MENTORSHIP ARTISTS EXPLORE BOOK ARTS,  
CONNECTIONS TO OTHER ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES IN  
NEW EXHIBITION AT MINNESOTA CENTER FOR BOOK ARTS**

(MINNEAPOLIS, MN) Minnesota Center for Book Arts is proud to present an exhibition of **New Work by the MCBA Jerome Foundation Mentorship Artists** On display **November 20, 2009 – February 21, 2010**

Please join us for the opening reception on **Friday, November 20, 6-9pm; artist presentations 7pm in the gallery**  
**Free and open to the public**

Featured artists:

Language is thought of as the most explanatory form of communication. From author to author, written language reveals subjective interpretation. Photographer and mixed media installation artist **Gregory Carideo**'s project takes a single well-known story and showcases the nuance of meanings derived from the first sentence, one that has refused translation from its native language for 94 years and has transformed much like its subject.

Painter and mixed media artist **Tanaegh Haddad**'s work, entitled *My Brother's Keeper*, is a set of 12 books in the form of Ethiopian prayer scrolls (10" x 30") with hand-painted images and letterpress text, housed in a handmade box. The work describes a 2008 car accident involving her brother, a medical doctor, and the subsequent series of events. The narrative describes abuse inflicted by the police, his treatment at Jackson Memorial Hospital — where he had previously completed his residency — and some of the spiritual and emotional experiences resulting from the incident. The artist uses selected Psalms to represent her brother's "voice" in the description of events, some of which he does not remember because of his physical trauma and heavy sedation. Haddad's words respond to him reflecting her prayers and communicating to him her own memory of the events.

Titled *The Red List*, textile and mixed media artist **Amber Jensen** has been working on a large-scale alphabet book of endangered species. Each page is decoratively cut and covered in muslin with the inside quietly displaying an individual painting. Accompanying the piece is a smaller reproduction of the book in a limited edition of handmade red wool envelopes that will be for sale at the opening with proceeds going to the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

"Were I a spider  
this would be a story  
of intricacy, geometry,  
the treachery of silk."

(from *An Architecture of Waiting*, stanza 5)

Combining poetry, metalwork and sculptural elements, **Sheila Lynch-Salamon**'s *An Architecture of Waiting* poses these questions: What is the color of waiting? Its texture? Its spatial parameters? In this work, poetry is held captive within 3 distinct architectural frameworks. It hides. It is hammered onto the metal pages of books. This is poetry attempting to outwit the page, and shatter the tension between staying put and moving forward.

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Ceramic, mosaic and mixed media artist **Deborah Ramos**'s project fuses her cultural connections and research in a bookwork exploring relationships between humans and the Earth within the Mexihca oral tradition. As an amateur gardener, Ramos is fascinated with the metamorphosis of seed to fruit and its similarity to the human life cycle, and has conducted much research on the oral/pictographic literature of Mexico, focusing especially on the significance of corn. The resulting bookwork also includes explorations in papermaking with natural fibers significant to the culture.

Knowledge begins with a raw experience, which is charted into data points or articulated into other languages. It is translated, simplified, or edited to promote one view or another. Combining letterpress, drawing and sculpture, artist **Mira Rojanasakul** creates paper structures that trace the corruption of information as we struggle to distill functional truths from this world.

The **MCBA Jerome Foundation Book Arts Mentorship** is an artist development program aimed at introducing book arts disciplines to emerging artists whose primary medium is in another discipline, demonstrating the ever-evolving and inclusive nature of the book arts. This exhibition represents the culmination of a journey of learning, experimenting with traditional methods, expanding concepts through contemporary techniques, and integrating previous expertise with fresh knowledge.

57 applications were received for the Mentorship Program Series II; three jurors, representing a broad spectrum of disciplines, narrowed the field to six recipients. Jurors for Mentorship Series II were: Erica Spitzer Rasmussen, textile artist and professor of art at Metropolitan State University; Cecilia Ramon, sculptor, University of Minnesota Duluth faculty member and Book Arts Mentorship Series I recipient; and Michael Robins, Executive Producing Director of Illusion Theater. Artist mentors for Series II were Bill Moran, Jana Pullman and Jody Williams.

The Jerome Foundation has been an instrumental partner with MCBA in opening doors for emerging book artists in Minnesota and supporting the creation of new work. For more information, visit [www.jeromefdn.org](http://www.jeromefdn.org).

**BACKGROUND: MINNESOTA CENTER FOR BOOK ARTS**

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 for adults, youth, families, K-12 groups and teachers. MCBA is located in the Open Book building in downtown Minneapolis, alongside The Loft Literary Center and Milkweed Editions. For more, visit [www.mnbookarts.org](http://www.mnbookarts.org).

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