

January 27, 2009
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The Minnesota Book Awards Announces 2009 Book Artist Award Winner

January 27, 2009, SAINT PAUL, MN – The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library is pleased to announce Paulette Myers-Rich as the winner of the 2009 Book Artist Award, an annual award of the Minnesota Book Awards. This award, co-sponsored by the Minnesota Center for Book Arts (MCBA), recognizes a Minnesota book artist or book artist collaborative group for excellence throughout a body of work, as well as significant contributions to Minnesota's book arts community.

Myers-Rich works extensively with black and white photography, with artists' books being her favored format as they allow the combination of image and text in conventional and non-traditional book forms. "Contemporary book arts has given rise to a variety of structures that both embrace tradition and break with it," says Myers-Rich, "offering myriad forms and interesting challenges. Yet, regardless of the approach to artists' books, for me, the practice of craft is important. The book must be a compelling and satisfying object or environment that activates content, a work that satisfies the hands, the eyes and the mind." Myers-Rich won a Minnesota Book Award in 2000 for her fine press book *Broder*, an award she shared with poet Anna Reckin, and again in 2006 for *Ghost Poems for the Living*. She is an active member of several arts organizations, teaches at MCBA and several colleges and universities, and is a graduate program mentor at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

An exhibit celebrating Myers-Rich's work runs February 5 through March 15, 2009 at MCBA in the Open Book building, 1011 Washington Avenue South in Minneapolis. A reception showcasing the exhibit takes place Thursday, February 26 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at MCBA, with a brief program and presentation at 7:00 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public, and features live music by Gary Schulte and Reynold Philipsek. Exhibits of Myers-Rich's work will also be featured at other venues throughout the state this year, including Saint Paul's Central Library where her work will be displayed March 23 through April.

Myers-Rich will receive special recognition and an award at the 21st annual Minnesota Book Awards gala on April 25, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel – Saint Paul Riverfront. Awards will also be presented that evening to the winners of the eight book categories (Children's Literature, General Nonfiction, Genre Fiction, Memoir & Creative Nonfiction, Minnesota, Novel & Short Story, Poetry, and Young People's Literature) and the winners of The Readers' Choice Award, sponsored by the *Pioneer Press* and

TwinCities.com, and the Kay Sexton Award, recognizing an individual for significant contributions to Minnesota's literary community. Gala tickets go on sale February 2, 2009.

The Minnesota Book Awards is a statewide, year-round outreach program of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library in partnership with the Office of the Mayor of Saint Paul and the Saint Paul Public Library. Please visit www.thefriends.org or call 651/366-6497 for more information about the Minnesota Book Awards. Visit www.mnbookarts.org or call 612-215-2527 for more information about Minnesota Center for Book Arts.

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