

# Open Call for 2008 Winter Book Art

## ■ September 5, 2008 Deadline ■

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Minnesota Center for Book Arts' 2008 Winter Book, *Winter Ink*, presents the work of poet, short story writer, playwright and essayist Bryan Thao Worra. Born in Vientiane, Laos in 1973 and now residing in the Twin Cities, Worra's work is known internationally and has been featured in numerous acclaimed anthologies including *Bamboo Among the Oaks*, *Outsiders Within*, and *Contemporary Voices from the East*.

This call is for an illustration to use on the title page of the book. Specifics and criteria are presented below. Additional images may be selected for use in other segments of the Winter Book. If an artists' work is used in the publication, they will receive a free copy of the book.

A poem that will be included in the anthology appears on the back of this page and may be used for inspiration.

### Criteria

- The size of the illustration should be no larger than 3 inches wide by 4 inches high. Work should be portrait oriented. The final size of the illustration may be resized proportionally by the Winter Book design team.
- Work may be created using any medium, but should reflect the title "Winter Ink." Abstract images are preferred incorporating techniques such as expressive mark-making, line drawing, ink painting and improvisational brushwork. Selected work will capture a mood, shape, action, or represent in some manner the physical properties of ink. Illustrations should not be representational or renderings of actual objects.
- Work should be flat and high contrast (i.e. black and white). Selected images will be scanned to produce plates. Only physical originals will be accepted. If an image is created digitally, submit a hard copy.
- Artists may submit multiple entries.
- Include your name, address, telephone number and email with each entry.
- To be considered, illustrations must be received by 5 pm, September 5, 2008.
- All entries become the property of MCBA.

Entries may be dropped off at The Shop at MCBA or mailed to:

Minnesota Center for Book Arts  
Winter Book Design Team  
1011 Washington Ave. South #100  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Questions? Email Jeff Rathermel, MCBA's Artistic Director, at [jrathermel@mnbookarts.org](mailto:jrathermel@mnbookarts.org)

## ***Ink: A Recipe***

Mo. Ink. Two characters:  
Hei, Black. Earth, T'u.

Labor to make this fluid.  
In illumination:

Chao Kuan-Chih in the twelfth century  
Composed the Mo Ch'ing: the Ink Classic.  
For every dynasty prior and pending, the revered liquid  
Was a foundation for constancy and changes.

The basics stay: Lampblack and glue.  
Draw lampblack from fine harvests, special pines ignited.

By a flightless feather brush, your soot collected  
Is mixed with glue pure as hart horns,  
The hides of the hunted and the tame.

Good ink depends on good glue.  
This gives texture, life.

The living, the burnt bound.  
Perhaps we could consider memories, dreams teeming  
Within awaiting a brush, a pen, a surface, an open eye  
In a human face.

We, creatures of carbon and voids, in our humanity alone need ink.

When a drop of ink is spilled or dries without a word, a stroke of note,  
In some imaginative corner of creation, something divine cries silently.

***Bryan Thao Worra***