



Minnesota Center for Book Arts
At Open Book
1011 Washington Ave S Ste 100
Minneapolis, MN 55415
Telephone: 612.215.2520
Facsimile: 612.215.2545
www.mnbookarts.org
mcba@mnbookarts.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 17, 2007
Contact: Curt Lund
Phone: 612.215.2528
Email: clund@mnbookarts.org

**“SITUATIONS” BOOK-INSPIRED INSTALLATION ART EXHIBITION
OPENS JANUARY 26, 2008 AT MINNESOTA CENTER FOR BOOK ARTS**

WHAT: *Situations*
Exhibition of book-inspired installation art
January 26 through April 6, 2008
On display at Minnesota Center for Book Arts

MCBA continues to “break the bindings” of book arts with *Situations*, an exhibition of book-inspired installation art. Artists from the Twin Cities and other areas of the country will be presenting site-specific, interactive, conceptual, multimedia and environmental works that defy traditional definitions. With art installed not only in the Star Tribune Gallery but also in other areas of MCBA’s facility, *Situations* will create a surprising treasure hunt for visitors to the center.

WHERE: Minnesota Center for Book Arts
1011 Washington Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55415
612.215.2520
www.mnbookarts.org

GALLERY HOURS: Monday: 10 am to 5 pm
Tuesday: 10 am to 9 pm
Wednesday – Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday: 12 noon to 4 pm

DATES: **Exhibit Dates:** January 26 – April 6, 2008
Opening Reception: Saturday, January 26, 6 to 9 pm at MCBA; Gallery talk begins at 7pm.
Exhibit and opening are free and open to the public during regular gallery hours.

Minnesota Center for Book Arts – General Information

Minnesota Center for Book Arts is a contemporary arts center helping artists and learners find creativity, expression and inspiration through the traditional crafts of book arts: papermaking, letterpress printing and printmaking, and hand bookbinding. 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.

(continues)



Minnesota Center for Book Arts
At Open Book
1011 Washington Ave S Ste 100
Minneapolis, MN 55415
Telephone: 612.215.2520
Facsimile: 612.215.2545
www.mnbookarts.org
mcba@mnbookarts.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 17, 2007
Contact: Curt Lund
Phone: 612.215.2528
Email: clund@mnbookarts.org

**“SITUATIONS” BOOK-INSPIRED INSTALLATION ART EXHIBITION
OPENS JANUARY 26, 2008 AT MINNESOTA CENTER FOR BOOK ARTS**

For their project, artists Carmen Gutierrez-Bolger and Suzanne Skon recruited 44 artists to collaborate on a bookish installation using two chiropractic cabinets. Within each cabinet are 27 drawers, which Gutierrez-Bolger and Skon view as pages of a book. Using “the hand” as a theme (“chiro” means “hand” and there are 27 bones in the hand), the collaborating artists chose a word or phrase associated with the hand and depicted it three-dimensionally in one of the 54 drawers. Gutierrez-Bolger and Skon provided a list of themes such as “hand to hand combat,” “manipulates,” and “handle with care,” and the visual interpretations range widely in media and tone. “All you see on outside of the cabinet is the phrase,” says Gutierrez-Bolger. “You have to open the drawer to see what’s inside.” Some drawers include electronic and audio components. A 112-page book documenting the work will be for sale in The Shop at MCBA during the exhibition.

Another project to be included in *Situations* is a metaphorical grotto for artists and writers, created by Jody Winger. She will use stone to build the structure. “The reason I chose stone,” she explains, “is that the first book form was stone, whether cave walls or the ten commandments or even pottery, carved in or painted on a piece of ceramic.” She is also drawn to the way a stone, turned sideways to show sedimentary layers, reveals a history throughout time and tells a story. Winger anticipates the structure will be four feet wide, three and a half feet deep. “I love bookmaking tools and stoneworker’s tools,” she adds, “and I’ll be using a lot of those tools in the process of creating this structure.”

Situations will allow spaces within the MCBA facility to be used in different ways than they have in the past. For example, Karen Wirth’s project is a series of “architectural interventions” within spaces often overlooked. The first will be installed for Situations, with the rest following every three or four months.

“Rather than looking at the gallery as an exhibition space,” Wirth says, “these temporary installations take advantage of architectural details exposed in the renovation of the building. While some of the most obvious details are in the Open Book common areas, they are spread throughout MCBA’s space as well: a stairway cut down its center climbing out of a vault, or the remnants of a wallpapered room above another staircase. But there are less glamorous areas as well.” It is those less glamorous areas that call out for an intervention.

To learn more about the other artists and projects included in *Situations*, contact Minnesota Center for Book Arts. High resolution images available for media use.

###