

MCBA

MINNESOTA
CENTER FOR
BOOK ARTS

THE *FORE* EDGE



Guests at our New Editions Preview Party, October 2023.

In October 2023, the Shop at MCBA was transformed by the whirlwind weekend that was **New Editions**. More than **150 new printed works** found (temporary) homes on our shelves and inside our display cases. We couldn't resist sharing seven more of these works with you here in The Fore Edge! You'll find **poems, recipes, an altered phone book**, and more.

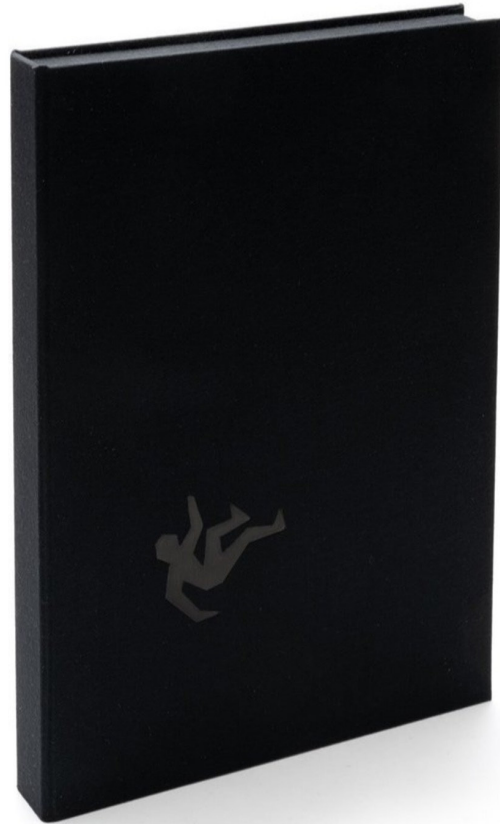
The eighth work here, "Brushy Creek Lake" by Ren Harris, has a special connection to MCBA as well. Ren was the recipient of our 2023 MCAD Collegiate Fellowship, which gives senior and graduate level students at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) the opportunity to complete an advanced project in book arts with a project stipend and access to MCBA studios.

Click on the large images below to view the work on shopmnbookarts.org. We welcome
eed editioned work, don't hesitate to email theshop@mnbookarts.org.

FEATURED ARTISTS' BOOKS

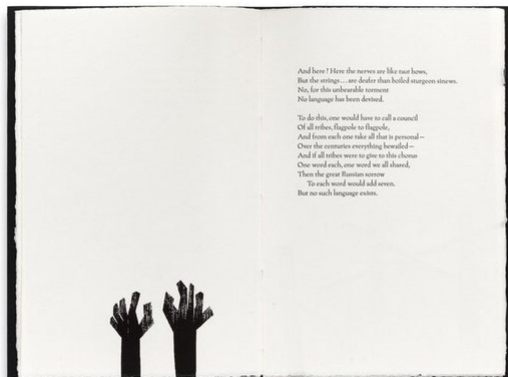
Harriet Bart

I Saw It



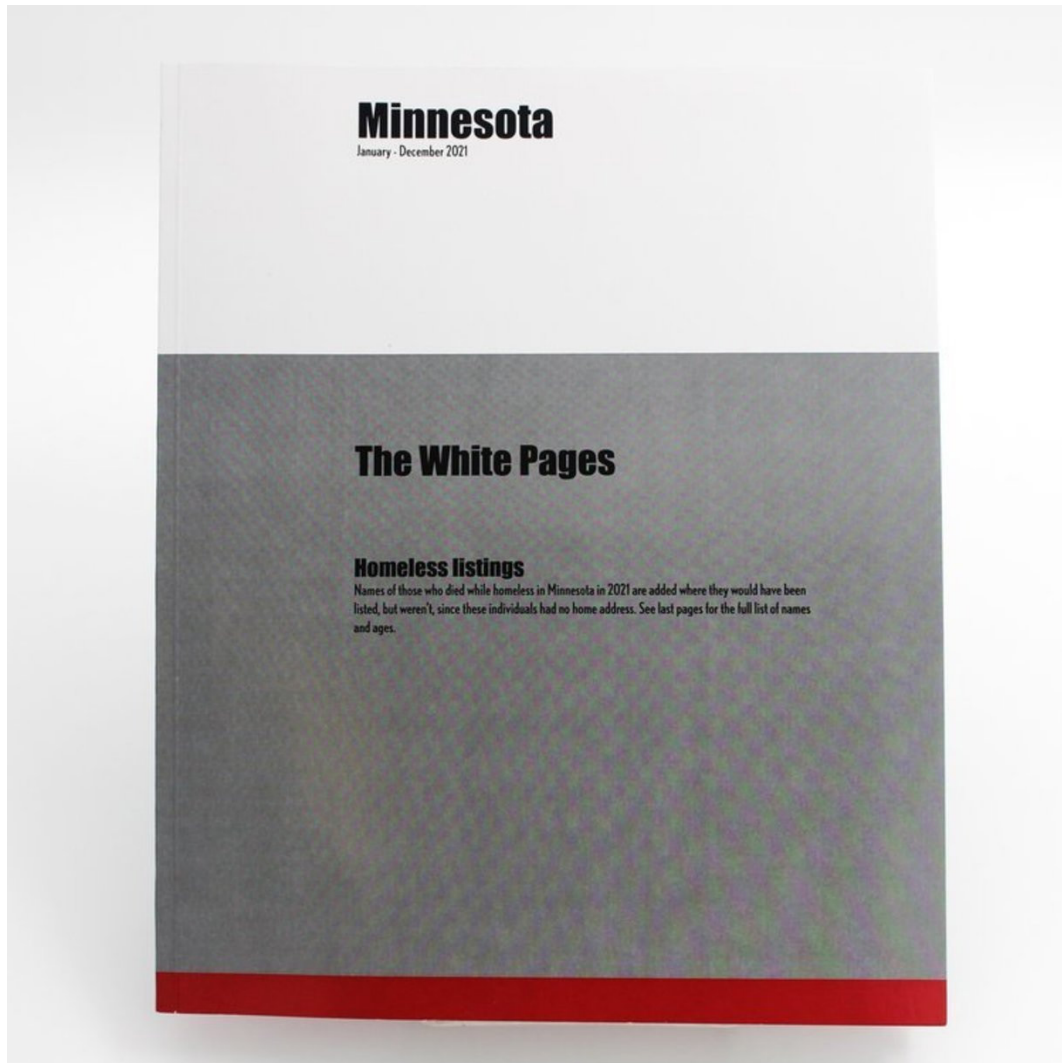
I Saw It presents the poem of that same title written by the famous Jewish-Russian poet Ilya Selvinsky (1899–1968), translated into English by the award-winning bilingual author, Boston College professor, Maxim D. Shrayder. **Selvinsky was the first Jewish-Russian poet to depict the Holocaust (Shoah) in the occupied Soviet territories.** In January 1942, while serving as a military journalist, Selvinsky witnessed the immediate aftermath of the massacre of thousands of Jews outside the Crimean city of Kerch, and thereafter composed and published this poem about it.

This project was of special interest to me, my maternal grandmother was from Ukraine. Partnering with noted typographer and fine-press printer Philip Gallo, I designed the book, clamshell box, and created the artwork. —Harriet Bart



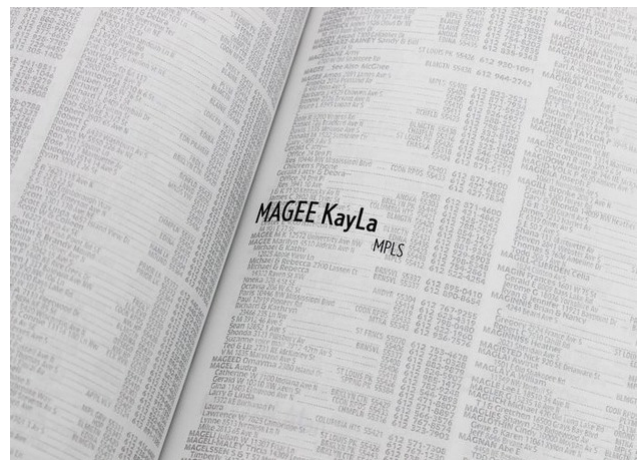
Wendy Fernstrum

Un-unlisted



Un-unlisted takes the form of a phone book. It lists the names of **those who died while homeless in Minnesota in 2021**. I've added each name to the phone book page where the name would have been listed, alphabetically. In this version of the phone book, the names of the homeless appear large and bold, with all other names faded in the background. Thus, in this phone book, the lives of the individuals who died while homeless in Minnesota in 2021 are acknowledged.

—Wendy Fernstrum



Rachel Simmons

Antarctica



In this archive of books and book-like objects, **four themes related to exploration—protection, courage, transportation, and guidance—**emerged from my research into the heroic age of polar exploration as well as from **my experiences traveling by ship in the Antarctica Peninsula.**

I wrote from my memories and incorporated text from Alfred Lansing's dramatic recounting of the voyage of the *Endurance*, Ernest Shackleton's doomed expedition to

the South Pole. Lansing's heroic, ultra-masculine language is juxtaposed with my photographs, taken as a woman traveling alone, of modern polar ecotourism...This interactive archive encourages the viewer **question the role of the ecotourist**—a traveler that's neither scientist nor professional explorer. —Rachel Simmons

Erica Spitzer Rasmussen

Thoughts About Pots

(two variations)

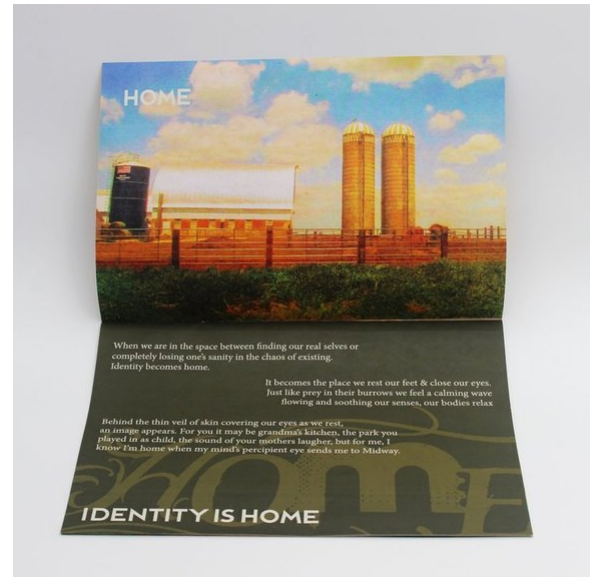
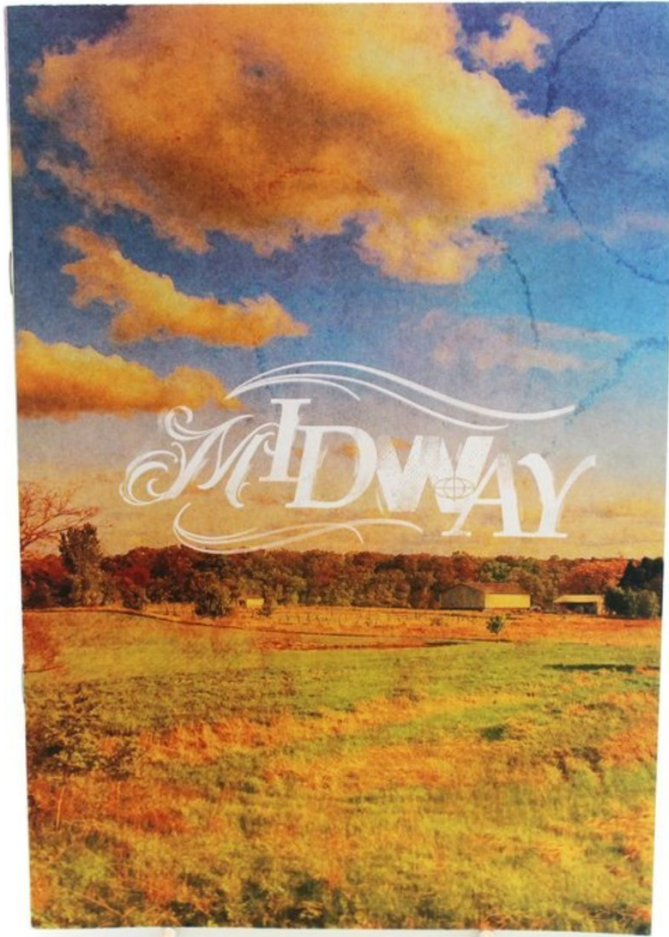


Thoughts About Pots is an artist's book series that features quotes by my late stepfather, Warren MacKenzie. The series is **a tribute to Warren, who taught ceramics at the University of Minnesota for 37 years**. Some quotes are humorous. Others are solemn. The handmade paper contains Warren's clay-covered overalls that were salvaged from his pottery after his death. The text includes references regarding Warren's first wife, Alix MacKenzie, and his mentors, Bernard Leach and Shoji Hamada.

Like Warren's pots, no two books are the same. —Erica Spitzer Rasmussen

Essence Enwere

Midway



Midway is a photo and poetry zine I designed in 2023. **I shot the images while riding the Amtrak train from Minneapolis to Chicago.** My rule was to only take photos while the train was moving to add to its narrative. There is more to *Midway* than simply a physical journey through the Midwest countryside; it is also a narrative journey about rediscovering one's self through the mundanity of life. I pay tribute to and record a style of life that we are rapidly losing as a society. *Midway* is **meant to look surreal and feel almost fake, nostalgic** despite the fact you have never been. I aimed for this piece to reflect the quiet mundanity and glory of the lost Midwest; these moments that are midway between city and city reflect the pulse of humanity just as much as a lit-up skyline. Midway represents being midway between hustle and bustle so you find yourself through the quiet. —Essence Enwere

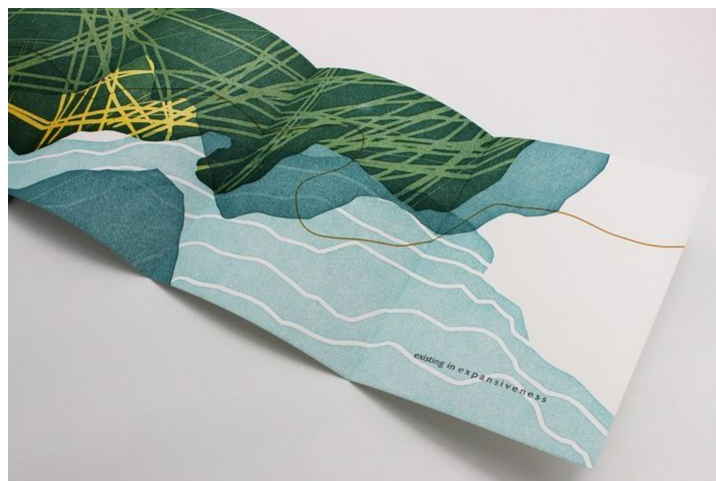
Melissa Wagner-Lawler

In Solitude



In Solitude is an artist's book created in June 2023 during a residency at In Cahoots Residency. The work explores the **relationship between expansive spaces and contemplative solitude** in a modified pamphlet stitch structure. The middle signature opens to a 40-inch-wide image.

— Melissa Wagner-Lawler



Nessa Nguyễn

Ăn Chung: Loving in Vietnamese



'Ăn chung' is Vietnamese for 'eat together.' Have you ever cooked for someone you love? Attended a potluck and tried your friends' dishes that they made themselves? That's what ăn chung is all about. It's about **love expressed through communal eating**, the act of sharing a meal and a story. More importantly, it's

the intimate gesture of making sure your loved ones are fed. This is a cookbook **10 Vietnamese recipes paired with stories** of when I've shared them with my loved ones. These stories range from heartbreak, joy, and even grief. Ăn Chung is love, family, and tenderness. —Nessa Nguyễn

OUR MCADCOLLEGIATE FELLOW

Ren Harris

Brushy Creek Lake



I grew up with Brushy Creek. Being a state away and dealing with a recent death in my family, I asked my dad to take me on a fishing trip around the lake. He acted as a tour guide that day—showing where he almost caught that monster muskie, the old roads, and his childhood hangout spots hiding deep below the water, and quietly

pointing out the young painted turtles basking in the sun. I returned to Minnesota and dove into my work, fusing my childhood memories with my research. Brushy holds lots of personal memories to me; and at the time I **felt a lot of sadness about how rapidly the world around me was changing**. Creating this book allowed me to capture what myself and others might know Brushy for in the current day while reminding the viewer about how quickly it can all change if we stop caring. —Ren Harris



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