

Binding for Justice: Artist Books from the St. Ambrose University Collection

Beth Shoemaker, Catalog & Resource Access Librarian
St. Ambrose University

Book artists have long been using their medium to wrestle with social justice issues. The unique format of artist's books allows an artist to engage a subject through content, form and time as a reader/viewer experiences the unfolding of a narrative. Using examples from the St. Ambrose University Book Arts Collection, we will explore ways in which various artists have confronted issues of civil rights, immigration, women's rights, and LGBTQ issues through the book form. Attendees will be invited to view and experience select book arts works during and after the presentation.

Beth Shoemaker is the Catalog and Resource Access Librarian at St. Ambrose University. She holds an MLIS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a doctorate of music from the University of Oregon. One of her most enjoyable work activities is the description and cataloging of SAU's Book Arts Collection.

Peruvian Social Comics: National Healing through Graphic Testimony

Brittany Tullis, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Women and Gender Studies
St. Ambrose University

My presentation discusses Peruvian social comics, examining the ways in which works by Peruvian comics creators Jesús Cossio and Juan Acevedo represent and interrogate pressing social issues in Peru. Cossio's work centers on the period of violence between 1980-2000, during which nearly 70,000 citizens lost their lives in a bloody clash between Shining Path, the armed forces, and a number of other radical groups. Acevedo's work deals with more general themes and issues, such as democracy, personal freedom, and varied political commentary. The work of both artists shows that in Peru, as in other countries around the world, the comic is a key space not only for entertainment, but also for the expression of opinion, dissent, and testimony.

Brittany Tullis is Assistant Professor of Spanish and Women and Gender Studies at St. Ambrose University. Her research revolves primarily around Hispanic comics studies, with a special focus on constructions of gender and sexuality. Her work has been published in the *International Journal of Comic Art* and *Hispanic Issues Online*, as well as in a forthcoming volume on U.S. Latino comics. Brittany is a working member of the International Comic Arts Conference (ICAF) Executive Committee and recently finished co-editing an anthology on representations of childhood in comics from around the world, which will be published next year by the University of Texas Press.

Social Justice in Plain Sight

Bruce Walters, Professor of Art
Western Illinois University
www.bruce-walters.com

I write feature articles in the River Cities Reader, "Art in Plain Sight", about Quad Cities public artworks and architecture—some of which address social justice issues. One example is Karoly Veress' sculpture "Freedom", (www.rcreader.com/art/art-in-plain-sight-freedom) which honors Raoul Wallenberg, who saved tens of thousands of Jews in Nazi-occupied Hungary during the Holocaust.

I am currently writing an article about the 1933 preschool building at the Annie Wittenmyer Complex where Beth Lucy Wellman conducted a study with children at the orphans' pre-school that demonstrated that a child's intelligence quotient (IQ) can be changed based on stimulation from the environment. Her findings lead to the establishment of such programs as Head Start.

Bruce Walters is an artist who has exhibited digital artworks, graphite drawings and paintings in more than a hundred solo, competitive and invitational exhibitions. He received his Master of Fine Arts from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Iowa. He is a Professor of Art at Western Illinois University. Recent work includes a 10 x 30' painting of Bix Beiderbecke displayed on the exterior of the German American Heritage Center and *Exploring NASA*, first displayed as a 100' wide projection on the exterior of the Figge Art Museum.

Making Comics with At-Risk Youth

Rachel Williams, Associate Professor of Art and Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies
University of Iowa

In addition to speaking about her career making progressive comics, Rachel will discuss her collaboration with the Catich Gallery on a project aimed at creating a series of workshops for youth living at the Annie Wittenmyer complex. The culmination of this semester-long project is the addition of youth-created comic books and art objects in the exhibition: JUSTICE! Alternative Voices and Progressive Themes in Comics.

Rachel Williams is originally from North Carolina but she has taught at The University of Iowa since 1999. Her work as a researcher and creative scholar has always been focused on women's issues, community, art, and people who are incarcerated. She earned a BFA in Painting and Drawing from East Carolina University and an MFA (Studio Art) and a Ph.D. (Art Education) from Florida State University.

The Jane Addams Hull House Museum, the Journal of Cultural Research in Art Education, and the International Journal of Comic Art have published her graphic scholarship, which is most often focused on women in prison. She has worked with incarcerated women since 1994. In 2010 she enrolled in the Inside-Out Prison Education Program through Temple University (www.insideoutcenter.org). *The Journal of Correctional Education*, *The Journal of Arts Management, Law, and Society*, *Art Education*, and *Visual Arts Research* have published her scholarship. She is also the Co-Editor of the *Marilyn Zurmuehlen Working Papers*.

FAIR 2016 SAU ART PLAY ART & SOCIAL JUSTICE

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In the midst of social conflict and cultural clashes, a medium among us has provided hope, virtue, and connectivity for the human race: art. Throughout history, artists have contextualized challenging issues to instill a stronger sense of reality, perspective, and proactive change in society. Fair Play brings a diverse range of artists together who utilize the power of creativity for the sake of social justice.

This symposium is sponsored by:

Catich Gallery	Figge Art Museum
Baecke Endowment for the Humanities Grant	SAU Art Department
The Council for an Integrative Learning Environment Grant	SAU Women & Gender Studies Department

Events will be held in the east wing of the Galvin Fine Arts Center, the Rogalski Center (3rd floor), and the Figge Art Museum. Campus parking will be open. Workshop space is limited, but spectators are welcome!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6TH

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| 9-10 a.m. | Check-In / Coffee (Rogalski Center Ballroom) |
| 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Book Fair (SAU Library) |
| 10-10:45 a.m. | Art + Healing in Communities, Anna Richards (Rogalski Center Ballroom) |
| 11-11:45 a.m. | In Plain Sight: Navigating Politics in Public Art, John Engelbrecht (Rogalski Center Ballroom) |
| 12-1 p.m. | Peruvian Social Comics: National Healing through Graphic Testimony, Brittany Tullis (Brownbag lecture—bring your lunch! / Rogalski Center Ballroom) |
| 1-2:30 p.m. | Mudstenciling Workshop, Anita Jung + Iowa Print Group (Galvin 12 & lower level parking lot) |
| 3-4 p.m. | Artist Q&A: Rachel Williams (Catich Gallery) |
| 4-5 p.m. | Making Comics with At-Risk Youth, Rachel Williams (Galvin 131) |
| 5-7 p.m. | JUSTICE! Opening Reception (Catich Gallery) |

THURSDAY, APRIL 7TH

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| All Day | Mural Project, The Ladydrawers (Figge Lobby) |
| 9-10 a.m. | Check-In / Coffee / Color Theory Installation, Vickie Phipps & Kayla Bushey (Galvin Lobby) |
| 10-10:45 a.m. | MAKING FACES: Masking Wartime Horrors, Roy Behrens (Galvin 131) |
| 11-11:45 a.m. | Binding for Justice: Artist Books from the SAU Collection, Beth Shoemaker (Galvin 131) |
| 12-12:45 p.m. | The Ladydrawers, Anne Elizabeth Moore (Brownbag lecture—bring your lunch! / Figge) |
| 1-1:45 p.m. | Tactical Media Meets "Iowa Nice," Jeremy Chen (Galvin 131) |
| 2-2:45 p.m. | Social Justice in Plain Sight, Bruce Walters (Galvin 131) |
| 3-4:30 p.m. | Play as Platform, Erica Damman (Galvin 141) |
| | Connecting Distance Workshop, Lauren Frances Evans (Galvin 131) |
| 5-7 p.m. | Book Fair (Figge) |
| 5:30-7 p.m. | Thursdays at the Figge Social (Figge) |
| 7 p.m. | Artist Lecture, Anne Elizabeth Moore (Figge) |

The Figge Art Museum is located at 225 W. 2nd Street in downtown Davenport. Check out the Catich Gallery (Galvin art wing) and Morrissey Gallery (Galvin front entrance) between sessions!

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EVENT DESCRIPTIONS & PRESENTER BIOS

Listed in alphabetical order by presenter's last name.

MAKING FACES: Masking Wartime Horrors

Roy Behrens, Professor of Graphic Design
University of Northern Iowa
www.bobolinkbooks.com/BALLAST/Behrens

During World War I, more than sixty thousand British soldiers returned home from the battlefield with facial disfigurement. Their visual mutilation was often horrifying, not only in terms of their self-image, but also their encounters with family, friends and the public. As a result, a small number of British sculptors were assigned to the production of metallic, paper-thin facial masks (based on pre-war photographs) which partly veiled their injuries. This presentation describes how this was accomplished, as well as the question of who it was for—the mutilated soldiers or the guilt-laden public who sent them to war.

Roy R. Behrens is a writer, designer and artist who has taught graphic design and design history in schools throughout the country for forty-five years. Since 1990, he has taught at the University of Northern Iowa. Internationally known for his writings on art and camouflage, he has published seven books and hundreds of research articles.

Tactical Media Meets “Iowa Nice”

Jeremy Chen, Assistant Professor of Art
Grinnell College
www.idealshipping.com / www.themovingcrew.org

Since 2012 I have been volunteering with a private, non-profit community group concerned about industrial agriculture's affects on the ecological health of the land and the physical health and quality of life of people in Poweshiek County, Iowa. My role as an artist has been to help generate text and images for use in informational pamphlets, flyers, posters, videos, educational campaigns and tactical media. My presentation will relate the impulse I felt as an artist trying to use my skills in very practical ways and the specific challenges in working with this group to craft messages, images and tactics that work toward their goals while being sensitive to cultural and generational difference.

Jeremy Chen is a cultural producer with a Master of Fine Arts in Printmaking (Sculpture minor) from The University of Iowa, UI Center for the Book Arts Certificate and a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art including K-12 teacher certification. He works in three areas: individual practice (print, drawing, sculpture); collaboration side-by-side with other artists; and work with the public or specific communities. Chen is a founding member of The Moving Crew, a collaborative group of cultural workers engaged in activities including site responsive events, installations, performances, print media, tactical media, collage, book production, video, writing and theory.

In Plain Sight: Navigating Politics in Public Art

John Engelbrecht, Director
Public Space One
www.publicspaceone.com / www.memoryintomyth.com

The Site Insight Project uses a highly-visible space in downtown Iowa City to highlight under-recognized local, social justice groups and organizations through the creation of a large (11'x17') public mural. Artists are paired with local organizations, communities, or initiatives to collaboratively produce a piece that will be exhibited for 3-6 months.

The first installation was created by Brooklyn-based artist Traci Molloy in collaboration with the IC organization United Action for Youth. Molloy conducted a workshop in summer 2014 with 12 self-described “outliers” in which they reflected on their identities, hopes, and fears.

For Fair Play, Public Space One Director John Engelbrecht will talk about the process of working with various constituents (from funders to artists to social justice organizations) and field questions concerning the challenges of public art paired with social justice activism. More at on this project at: www.publicspaceone.com/site-insight-project

John Engelbrecht is Director of Public Space ONE (PS1), an alternative arts space in Iowa City, IA. Over 100 local, national, and international exhibitions have happened in his tenure at PS1 along with a nearly daily program of performances, workshops, residencies and other interesting events. He is chair of the City of Iowa City Public Art Advisory Committee, a member of the Iowa City Press Co-op and an adjunct Photography instructor at Mt. Mercy University.

Play as Platform: Discussing Human and Nonhuman Vulnerability in the Age of Climate Change

Erica Damman, Interdisciplinary PhD Candidate
University of Iowa

This lecture will give a brief historical and theoretical background to the power of play and its place in art history. We'll then look at and consider several art practices that involve play. In particular, I will be showing a puzzle and a board game that I created. Of interest is the way in which play can serve as a non-persuasive rhetorical device, an opportunity for artists to create space for dialogue, and a tool that every artist should consider when they wish to do participatory artwork that takes on sometimes divisive or difficult topics.

Connecting Distance Workshop

Lauren Evans, Artist & Adjunct Assistant Professor
University of Iowa • www.laurenfrancesevans.com
Christopher Willauer • www.christopherwillauer.com

This all-ages workshop will be one of several ongoing body casting collaborations facilitated by artists Lauren Frances Evans and Christopher Willauer, whose Connecting Distance project is currently being supported by a grant from the Iowa Arts Council. Through collaboration and casting, the project simultaneously gives physical form and metaphysical significance to the idea that the distance which separates us, also connects us.

By focusing on the human body, the project seeks to open up discussions of space and forms that exist between us all. Participants will be paired with someone in the room they've never met, and will be guided through the process of creating a plaster cast of a physical space between them. Throughout this process, a discussion will be facilitated by the workshop leaders—the pairs will be asked to discuss the various roles that difference has played in their lives. To learn more about the Connecting Distance project, please visit www.connectingdistance.com.

Lauren Frances Evans completed her MFA at the University of Maryland in 2014. She was born and raised in Atlanta, GA, did her undergraduate studies at the College of Charleston, and has since participated in residencies at Franconia Sculpture Park, Elsewhere Living Museum, and the Vermont Studio Center. Lauren was recently awarded the International Sculpture Center's 2014 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award and was last year's Artist in Residence for the Iowa City Community School District. Currently residing in Iowa City, IA, Lauren is the Visual Arts Coordinator for the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Mudstenciling Workshop

Anita Jung, Professor + Iowa Print Group
University of Iowa

Mudstenciling is a popular form of both claiming space and creating space for dissenting voices. This workshop will discuss strategies of forming public voice while creating and printing mudstencils.

Grassroots organizations are dependent on alternative forms of communication. Technology; Facebook, tweets, etc. have become important in getting the word out. What about analogue methods? Graffiti, a major form of expression during uprisings from Berlin to Buenos Aires, used spray paint stencils or wheat pasted posters, both illegal. During Obama's presidential elections as well as the Occupy Movement “chalking” became so prevalent that it was illegalized in many U.S. cities; mudstenciling is a legal alternative.

IPG is a student organization comprised of undergraduate and graduate students interested in the fine art of printmaking. Anita Jung is their faculty advisor and an artist working in traditions of the ready-made, appropriation, and art as an everyday occurrence. Anita investigates the act of making and the residue left behind.

The Ladydrawers in Davenport: Threadbare and Site Specific Illustration at the Figge

Anne Elizabeth Moore, Melissa Mendes, Shaika Lugtu

Ever wondered who makes your clothes? Who sells them? How much they get paid? How the fashion and sex industries are intertwined? Threadbare draws the connections between the international sex and garment trades and human trafficking in a beautifully illustrated comics series. Anne Elizabeth Moore, in reports illustrated by top-notch comics creators, pulls at the threads of gender, labor, and cultural production to paint a concerning picture of a human rights in a globalized world.

The Ladydrawers will create a research based mural at the Figge Art Museum concerning the intersectional issues of African-American and LGBTQ Civil Rights and Historical Sites in the Quad Cities.

Anne Elizabeth Moore is an internationally renowned cultural critic, Fulbright scholar, UN Press Fellow, USC Annenberg/Getty Arts Journalism Fellow and part of the team behind The Ladydrawers, she has written and edited several award-winning books. *Cambodian Grrrl* (Cantankerous Titles, 2011) received a Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Award for best book from the Society of American Travel Writers Foundation in 2012.

Sheika Lugtu is a Chicago-based cartoonist, writer and teacher. She has been making comics and zines for over a decade. Her recent work with the Ladydrawers Comics Collective focuses on economic, race, gender and cultural issues impacting marginalized individuals.

Melissa Mendes lives and works in Hancock, Massachusetts, where she grew up. She went to Hampshire College from 2002 to 2006, and then the Center For Cartoon Studies from 2008 to 2010, where she got her MFA. In 2010 she received a Xeric Grant to publish her first graphic novel, *Freddy Stories*. Melissa has drawn comics with the Ladydrawers for Truthout.org and Bitch Media, and illustrated a chapter book called *Jack Strong Takes a Stand* for Roaring Brook Press. She is drawing a series for *Belt Magazine* titled “Harvey and Me,” written by Anne Elizabeth Moore, about Anne's adventures with Harvey Pekar.

Performance/Installation: Color Theory

Vickie Phipps, Assistant Professor of Art & Kayla Bushey, Student
Augustana College
vickierhipps.com

Art that asks question(s) like: Are you color brave?
Color Theory is our first collaborative project.

Art + Healing in Communities

Anna Richards, Art Therapist
The Healing Heart Center, Inc.

In this lecture, I will explore art therapy and social action. The strength of art therapy lies in its relationship to art and the strength of contemporary art practice is its ability to be reflexive, critical, and always in a liminal state. I will examine the criteria of social action projects within the field of art therapy such as demonstrating an understanding of the socio-political context, acknowledgment and negotiation of unequal power dynamics, empowerment and sustainability. We will take a look at several art therapy based social action projects that seek to empower disenfranchised populations, provided opportunities for healing, and create sustained change.

Anna Richards, LMHC, LCPC holds a Master's degree in art therapy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and currently works in private practice at The Healing Heart Center, Inc. in Davenport, IA. She has practiced art therapy in a variety of settings with diverse populations including: community mental health, substance abuse recovery, a rape/sexual assault and domestic violence program, inpatient and outpatient care, and adolescent residential facilities. She believes that within safe, caring, empathic and empowering relationships, people have the capacity to become agents of their own healing and growth. She has a special interest in using art as a means to raise awareness about social issues, create community, and build connections.