

Artists' Books, Nature and the Landscape...

Sarah Bodman, May 2010, Doverodde Book Arts Festival

<http://bookarts-doverodde.dk>

Collections and Observations of nature

Ahlrich van Ohlen, Germany. Artist's book *A Place of Interest* for the Doverodde Book Arts Festival and exhibition.

<mailto:ahlrich.van.ohlen@nwn.de>

John Dilnot, UK

Map - found colours and their names which are place names in the U.K.

Potato Prints. The original hand printed with potatoes, edition of 3 potato prints and rubber stamps.

Good and Bad Apples - sort them out, hand made in edition of 500.

Birds - hand made in edition of 500.

www.johndilnot.com

Lucy Harrington, UK, unique bird books.

bettyfashion@gmail.com

Natalie McGroarty, UK, *Magpie Mishap*

www.bookarts.uwe.ac.uk/natext.htm

nmcgroarty@hotmail.com

Éric Watier, France, *Paysages avec retard (latescapes)*

Edition of 16 various views – landscapes, which are in fact plots of land for sale, photographs taken from Estate Agents windows around Montpellier. <http://www.ericwatier.info>

Jane Hyslop, Scotland, UK

Herbarium Catalogue

Handmade book with etchings, screenprints, hand colouring and letterpress 39 x 29 x 8cm, 2009. The collection demonstrates Jane Hyslop's enduring interest in gathering, collating and recording and the ever-changing cycle of nature and includes plants gathered by her from her locale and contributions from around Scotland and beyond.

Garden Journal. Ongoing project to create a record through a collection of pages. Gouache and pencil on Somerset Satin, 38 x 20cm, 2005 onwards.

Wild Plants Collected in Midlothian. Concertina book showing a whole year through the changing flora with each page representing a month and extending to a continuous frieze 300 cm long.

Collection I of plants gathered and painted.

www.janehyslop.com

Imi Maufe, Norway/UK

Raffle Tickets and Midges. A collection of books and objects from a year long residency in Highgreen, Tasset in remote Northumberland, focuses on events and happenings that take place in this remote, but far from inactive community. It is a collection of book-based work about the community events such as Norway Day and The Great Pie Challenge, collections of journeys, place names, and other specialities of this unique area. This collection is housed in a specially-designed, portable cabinet which was toured by bicycle out of the valley to end the residency.

<http://www.axisweb.org/artist/imimaufe>

Gracia & Louise, Australia

Who are you? A turning zine modelled upon a familiar game of old by Gracia & Louise.

Closing my eyes, it is possible to imagine myself anywhere but where I am (I) Postcard collage zine by Gracia Haby

Good Evening, good evening. So nice of you to come all this way, by Gracia Haby. Receive a little love with your cabbage roll; comb the lawns of Killarney in Ireland; brake a few roof tiles in Stockholm; and discover blue skies in Germany. A zine featuring original collage postcards and imagined correspondence by Gracia Haby. 15cm x 10.5cm, 32-page colour and B&W zine with a bright red cover card and cardboard back, with a glued spine. 2009

www.gracialouise.com

Textscapes

Julie Johnstone, Scotland, UK

easily missed

Is that an island in the mist?

Johnstone “creates minimal yet resonant works exploring the visual and linguistic nuances contained in short phrases and gatherings of words. These explorations are realised in small handmade books and cards as well as in wall-based screenprints.” www.essencepress.co.uk

Welmoet Wartena, UK, *Habitat of Words*

The field of ecopoetry is the relationship between nature and literature, in particular poetry. I translate and express my way of looking and thinking by using nature. Therefore the book can be used as a metaphor for nature. In my work I try to give the viewer a different approach into nature. Look at the wing of a dragonfly and you see the landscape!

In this book *Habitat of words* are four levels to be found, first the ground, knee high, eye high and at last the sky. In each level the viewer discovers the area of a species. To show a difference, there is one animal and one plant in each level. Both (animal and plant) are rare species and live in this specific field. <http://www.welmoetwartena.com>

Colin Sackett, UK

Thither ‘it being ... some book’. 28pp 165 x 127 letterpress, sewn pamphlet. <http://www.colinsackett.co.uk>

Simon Cutts, Ireland

A History of the Airfields of Lincolnshire I and II

The first version of the title made in 1990, with uncut heads to the book, and using a frieze of the word ‘poppy’ running at the bottom of the page. Here, in the second version, a small concrete constellation of the word ‘flax’ is used as a frieze at the top of each page with their uncut tails. These books are an attempt to use the vehicle of the book itself as the metaphor for the poem and the situation it describes or equivalences. Letterpress and sewn binding with drawn-on cover, 2000

Waterfalls of New Hampshire in Winter. An attempt to use the vehicle of the book itself as the metaphor for the poem and the situation it describes or equivalences. Edition of 200, Norfolk, UK, 1994, 11.6 x 17.9 cms, letterpress, plastic wallet, perfect binding. <http://www.coracle.ie>

Jo Moore, Peach-Tree, Pear-Tree Press, UK

Stills. Text stills of visual landscapes, printed on transparent papers. peachtreepeartree@gmail.com

Journeys through landscape

Helen Douglas, Scotland, UK

Wild Wood - “Wild Wood has been conceived as a Border Ballad and takes as its inspiration the Carrifran Wildwood project and the ancient woods at Deuchar and Tinnis Stiel in Yarrow. Opening the book and turning the pages is analogous to entering and exploring the Wild Wood where different moods and feelings move the viewer through the visual narrative.”

Illiers Combray, Helen Douglas & Zoe Irvine: published by Weproductions, UK

A richly textured, multi layered soundscape composition (2 CDs: Irvine) and ornately interwoven visual narrative (2 sided concertina book: Douglas), exploring a sense of memory and place. Inspired in the month of May by a week long visit to Illiers Combray, the small town immortalised by Marcel Proust in his epic novel *In Search of Lost Time*, Douglas and Irvine weave together their own distinct mythologies and reveries; their subjective responses elliptically united by their shared sense of place. 2 sided concertina book 9 x 9 cm, 120pp, Offset Litho, full colour. End pockets containing two mini audio CDs. <http://www.weproductions.com>

Ken Leslie, USA

Space + Time. One photo per week for a full year, from a single location, the text of the book directly describes the concept-- a 360° panorama of the landscape at home, shot 1 photo per week throughout the year and carefully measured to close the cycle at the completion of the year. The circular accordion structure is ideal for this circular landscape, moving simultaneously through Space and Time. Edition of 2000, Nexus Press, Atlanta, Georgia, USA 2002 Offset printed both sides full colour on a single sheet. www.kenleslie.net

Ahlich van Ohlen, Germany

Essex –Way. I spent six days walking across the Essex Way from Harwich to London. On each day, I took ten photos from scenes of impressions/smells/tastes etc. along the way. Not spectacular motives but "normal" ones. The book and project were inspired by Richard Long's *A Walk across England*. Edition of 50, Rastede, Germany, 2004. 9.8 x 17 x 1.1 cms, photography and computer print, woodcut print cover. ahlich.van.ohlen@nwn.de

Imi Maufe, Norway/UK

Greetings from Norway portrays a 10-day hut-to-hut skiing tour above the tree line in Stølsheimen Norway. The huts were a welcome refuge after a hard days skiing and often had a bookshelf of Turlag (touring) guides from the 1930's onwards- full of adverts of the era. The book is influenced by the graphics of these adverts, the limited palette of colours provided by the barren but beautiful landscape and playing with the irony of picture postcards combine to encapsulate the experience of the journey. Edition of 40, screenprinted, concertina folded, tied with ribbons. www.axisweb.org/artist/imimaufe

Evil Twin Publications, USA

Transient Songs. Poems: Amber Gayle, Photos and design: Stacy Wakefield. 70 pages, 4.5 x 5.5" Edition of 450 copies. Handprinted at the Knust stencil printshop in Nijmegen, The Netherlands, 1995. www.eviltwinpublications.com/ts.html

Frans Baake, The Netherlands

Fleuve. In 2005 Frans Baake went to the Canadian province of Québec in order to visit the former quarantine island of Grosse Ile. Biking around on a causeway near Saint Lawrence River (French: Fleuve Saint-Laurent) he found a ranch of numbered piles. The ones with the numbers 47 - 64 he photographed and can be found in this booklet. The French word 'Fleuve' means river or stream, so these piles actually form a stream in the river itself. In fact they number the pages: left from the staple in the middle is number 50, on the right 51. So you can see immediately that the booklet covers 100 pages. www.fransbaake.nl

David Faithfull, Scotland, UK

East looking West / West Looking East. Palindromic book decipherable from both front to back and back to front, depicting a Scottish Hebridean landscape. From one direction, the area is interpreted objectively, detailing geological and meteorological conditions, etc. and from the opposite diametrical viewpoint, subjectively detailing personal emotions and memories. Isle of Mull, Scotland. <http://www.davidfaithfull.co.uk>

Andi McGarry, Sun Moon And Stars Press, Ireland

Paddle notes charts the course of a mornings paddle on the South East coast of Ireland, starting from the fishing village of Kilmore Quay. The Bluey marbled pages chart the exploits of paddlers in a boat, featuring dogs, girls, windmills, snorkles and crabs. This notebook method is a typical approach of the type of work that would be published under this imprint. Paper, glue, Marbling Ink, Indian Ink, 2002. sunmoonandstarspress@hotmail.com

Sun Moon and Stars Press Books and Films 1, Andi McGarry, Sun Moon And Stars, Press, The Moorings, Kilmore Quay, Wexford, Eire <http://www.youtube.com/user/AAAAAAndi>

Karen Hanmer, USA

Mirage. "Karen Hanmer's *Mirage* reflects those hot late-summer road trips when the crops are tall, the days long and hot, the air dusty, and the road flat and straight, punctuated only by farms racing by in a blur. Hanmer, no stranger to themes of the rural Midwest, captures the essence of those trips in dreamy imagery wrapped in a skillfully crafted minimalist structure that does not intrude on the experience. An essential companion to Hanmer's other works such as *Bluestem*, *Prairie*, *Homestead*, *Flip Farm*, and *Bequest*." - Peter D. Verheyen, bookbinder/conservator, publisher of the Book Arts Web and *The Bonefolder*. <http://www.karenhanmer.com>

Radoslaw Nowakowski, Poland

NON-DESCRIPTION OF THE HILL. "Once I wrote: *You, the mountain, you've hidden yourself behind the labyrinth of the leafless tree, got lost in the misty air. But I do have almost one hundred pictures taken almost from the same place, in different parts of a day and of a year. I will turn these pictures into subtle prints, cover them with unclear tales small as little clouds, tales about everything and nothing, written in three languages... And somebody wishing to see you will have to open noisily the paper window and go through it to the text or through the text to the picture or through the picture to the picture or through the text to the text...* What do I make it for? This idea is so common among masters and fakers. But nobody has done it with this mountain. From this place. In this place.

A tangled thicket of branches. A net. Spider web. Curtain. Lace. Labyrinth. And nothing in it. The mountain is too clever. Too sly. Too cunning to let it be caught, wrapped, trapped." www.liberatorium.com

Working in the landscape**Andrew Norris, Croatia**

POETree, 2005. Rubber-stamped text on birch leaves, housed in leaf shaped box, 1.13cms

A collection of nature poems each relying on the careful combination of a few select words, or even a single 'altered' word, to create a resonance that goes beyond the words themselves.

e ART h works III - Last Leaf Leaves Last. Edition 4. Approx. d. 20 cm. Rubber-stamped text on plane tree leaf.

Walking Songs: 7 walks 7 views

Tall nettles - poem XIII from An ear to the earth, Andrew Norris
<http://www.youtube.com/user/andrewnorris1>

Andrew Norris' work is a continuing series of original art works using natural materials, stones, wood and leaves, some of which employ a play on words. Andrew lives and works in Zagreb and creates work in his e ART h works sculpture garden near Duga Resa. <http://andrew-norris.blogspot.com> <http://artistsbooks.blog.hr>

Jane Ponsford, UK

Storytrees. One of a collection of stories told to me by local people during a residency based in the Surrey woodlands. Some are factual accounts some are reminiscences and some are fairy stories. I have then been installing the stories back into the landscape. This is one of the storytrees. www.papertrails.org.uk

Paul Salt, UK

River Thinking: Confluence. Mud and water taken from the confluence of the Rivers Don and Sheaf, Sheffield. Found posters taken from the bridge over the confluence of the rivers. paulsalt@picturetext.fsnet.co.uk

Finlay Taylor, UK

East Dulwich Dictionary

Double Thought

The Weight

View

The snail drawings and objects have been developing over the last 10 years. Initially forming from photographic documents taken on the river Thames at a habitat site of the scarce Hairy Backed Snail. The photographs were printed digitally and eaten into by the molluscs with texts such as 'Occupied Territory' or 'Holy Land'. From here many manifestations and alternative treatments have informed the experience of seeing the paper based works.

More recently Darwin's 'Origin of Species' and Steve Jones (snail expert) updating of those ideas in 'Almost Like Whale' have been processed in the garden to the machinations of snail, worm and woodlice activity. These tomes then displayed in the grounds at UCL where Jones works and very near where Darwin's house was located on Gower St, London.

Other works both drawings and sketch/blank books are treated becoming surfaces and pages to be studied, read and related to each other. A sort of meeting of worlds, non-human and human. Controlled and chaotic, peaceful observation and destruction. 'The Weight' is playful and heavy, a notion of intelligence and knowledge and its problems which in many ways holds similar concerns with 'East Dulwich Dictionary' which spent 6 months in the garden sitting on the surface of the soil being worked upon.

'View' is part of a collection of photocopy books each set of covers containing a large image to be unfolded 'maplike'. Here an aerial scene, mostly cloud cover, some rural landscape emerging from the gases. A pencil circle defines an area within the space drawing attention to what is within and without it. Shifting the ideas of this prints purpose, its intentions.

finlaysc@hotmail.com

The politics of landscape

Bill Burns, Canada

The Flora and Fauna Information Service, 0.800.0Fauna0Flora (2008)

How to Help Animals Escape from Degraded Habitats (1996)

How to Help Animals Escape from Natural History. A series of large chromogenic photographs (105 x 130 cm). 1995 – 2005

Safety Gear for Small Animals, the 'largest museum of safety gear for small animals in the world' contains: miniature hard hats, high-visibility vests and safety visors designed for protective animal wear; a 'proving machine' for testing the durability of safety gear; 'Boiler Suits for Primates Kit', a suitcase outfitted with miniature versions of flip-flops and other provisions received by prisoners at Guantanamo Bay. The arsenal of equipment, addresses the question of how to counteract the threats to nonhuman and human natures alike, and reminded audiences of the environmental and political threat in which animals, plants and people are perpetually caught. www.safetygearforsmallanimals.com <http://billburnsprojects.com>

Steve McPherson, UK

Beached Books No. 5, Steve McPherson, from a series taken at Westbrook beach, on the North Thanet Coast, UK.

www.stevemcpherson.co.uk

Global depository for images of beached marine plastic objects founded by Steve McPherson www.marineplastic.org

Philip Zimmermann, USA

Sanctus Sonorensis. A book of border 'beatitudes'. This work comments on the complicated attitudes of Americans on illegal immigration from Mexico. The cover shows a photograph of the area of Southern Arizona which is the most active in terms of migration across the Sonoran desert, where thousands have lost their lives in the deadly desert heat. The interior pages

show the progression of a typical high-desert day from dawn to sunset with a single line of text on each two-page spread. <http://philipzimmermann.blogspot.com> www.spaceheat.com

Altered books and nature

Alexander Korzer-Robinson, Germany/UK

Roman Eden made from *Brockhaus' Konversationslexikon*, 14th ed, 1895 26 cm x 18cm x 6cm

Old Garden made from *Brockhaus' Konversationslexikon*, 14th ed., Vol. 8, 1895 26 cm x 18cm x 6cm

An artist from Berlin now living in Bristol, UK. "Drawing from a background in psychology, my art practice focuses on the notion of the "inner landscape". Using generally discarded materials, I make objects as an invitation to the viewer to engage her/his own inner life in order to assign meaning to the artwork. The cut book art has been made by working through the books, page by page, cutting around some of the illustrations while removing others. The images seen in the finished work, are left standing in the place where they would appear in the complete book. As a final step the book is sealed around the cut, and can no longer be opened." www.alexanderkorzerrobinson.co.uk

Sarah Bodman, UK

After Fallout. This government guide from 1975, gives detailed instructions on planning for a nuclear attack on the UK. Chapters include, Caring for Sheltered Animals; What to do in case of Attack, After Fallout, The Agriculture Departments in Wartime. There are detailed lists for implementing plans, emergency supplies of water, what radiation is, milking, warning signals, the All Clear, how long to stay outside when working, when to take cover, handling affected animals, what to do with affected crops, milk, eggs and meat. Reading through this book is depressing; it is all so logical, so calmly explained - yet utterly useless when you think about it. If anyone did survive a large-scale nuclear attack, the chances of there being any unaffected farmland left to continue crop or livestock cultivation would be pretty minimal. An image of The Haywain was printed over the central double page spread. Viewing this idyllic landscape scene behind texts which explain the effects of beta and gamma radiation on animals' skin sums up what would be lost if this happened. <http://www.bookarts.uwe.ac.uk/regen/sarahb1.htm>

Martha Hellion, Mexico

Loose Leaf series. From the Reading Around project. <http://www.bookarts.uwe.ac.uk/readgall.htm>

Guy Begbie, UK

Provence Reconfigured. Guy Bebgie is a multi-disciplinary artist and bookbinder. He exhibits his artists' books and delivers book arts workshops and master classes internationally. <http://guybegbie.com>

Jane Hyslop, Scotland, UK

Selected Scottish Drawings, National Gallery of Scotland. Drawing is a crucial element to my practice and I chose this book because I wanted the challenge of trying to make something new and personal from an existing volume and relate it to drawing in some way. The book is illustrated with black and white reproductions and it enabled me to use pen and ink, which is a medium I am comfortable with. Plants, especially wild plants interest me and symbolize nature's power and ability to reclaim and eventually obliterate what human activity creates. This seemed an appropriate theme to pursue as I reclaimed the pages and changed the images below as I drew. www.janehyslop.com

Kristine Steele, UK

Pomona's Crown, an altered book of Dutch and Flemish 16th and 17th Century Paintings. www.bookarts.uwe.ac.uk/regen/ksteele1.htm

Andy Malone, UK. A series of altered *Observer's* books that have been made by cutting away sections of the pages to expose the illustrations. AMALONE@ucreative.ac.uk

A darker (then lighter) side of nature

Mick McGraw, Scotland, UK

Three Fifths Fluid. The river in the town where I live, where my grandfather drowned in the early 1950's. This book was made by grabbing still images from a short video I made of the River Leven where my grandfather drowned. This is the second fastest flowing river in Scotland and had a notorious whirlpool until about 40 years ago. I wanted the darkness of the night time riverscape to bleed out of the edge of the page to give the feeling of darkness and memory loss. I have made a few works about rivers and expanses of water as a result of my own (hereditary) fear of open water. In order to combat this fear I built my own canoe in an attempt to try to come to terms with this phobia. The title refers to the fact that the earth's surface contains approx three-fifths water, similar to the amount of fluid contained within the human body. Edition of 20, Glasgow, UK, 200. 15 x 19.5 cms, digital inkjet print. M.McGraw@gsa.ac.uk

Virginia Batson, USA

Onslaught of Night. This is the story of nightfall on the coast told through the sensory landscape of the body. I used phrases of my own poetry blended with language from a newspaper account of the "disappearances" in South America and other found language, and melded with found (computer-manipulated) imagery. Edition of 110, Philadelphia, USA, 2000.
www.virginiabatson.com

Tim Edgar, UK

Rookery. Ten photographs exploring the dark, unsettling locations of rookeries in southern Dorset. The birds are absent, what remains are signs of ritualistic behaviour. Edition of 500, Bournemouth UK, 2003. Offset litho from original photographs. 17.5 x 14 x 0.5 cms. teedgar@yahoo.com

Sarah Bodman, UK

Livia's Garden. A tour of the garden of Livia (wife of Augustus Caesar). Livia used her knowledge of 'medicinal' plants to remove any obstacles which threatened the stability of the Imperial family in Rome.
<http://www.bookarts.uwe.ac.uk/sbooks/sbg10a.htm>

Flowers in Hotel Rooms Volume I-IV

A series inspired by Richard Brautigan's novel *The Abortion: An Historical Romance* (1966). The photographs are of flower placings, performances and associations, produced in hotel rooms I have occupied whilst travelling. The series has become a set of journals, documenting my own actions as well as those of characters in novels, or writers whose work I admire. For Volume IV, working in Poland, meant a stay near the home of the writer and artist Radoslaw Nowakowski so we could interview him and film his books. He lives in Dabrowa Dolna, a tiny hamlet, and as I sat outside at dusk with the dogs barking (reading *Ethan Frome* by Edith Warton) I noticed the garlic that had been nailed up for protection outside the front door by the wonderful B&B owner. <http://www.bookarts.uwe.ac.uk/sbooks/sbg33.htm>

Kurt Johannessen, Norway*TO KEEP A DEAD FLY IN THE HAND JUST IN FRONT OF A GLACIER*

Performance. Ved Nigardsbreen, Jostedal, 5 September 2009 (50 minutes) Photo: Torill Nøst. www.zeth.no

Flygande steinar – flying stones

"A photo collection of flying rocks. More or less blurred images of stones against a more or less clear blue sky."
www.zeth.no

Exercises

"Here is a handbook of exercises that hardly anyone has tried. The format is small, which makes it easy to take the book everywhere and practise anywhere when needed. The book has been printed in five editions since the first edition in 1994, and is therefore the absolute best seller." <http://zeth.no/boker.shtml#EXERCISES>

Sarah Bodman, UK

An Exercise for Kurt Johannessen. One of Kurt's exercises in the above book was: "write 100 stories and bury them in a forest" so I did.

You can download this handout from the link to Doverodde Book Arts Festival 2010 at:

<http://www.bookarts.uwe.ac.uk/exhidata.htm>

For links to talks and essays on artists' books, nature and landscape see:

<http://www.bookarts.uwe.ac.uk/resources.htm#3>

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