



Symposium

## **Beyond the Book - Artists' Books or Book Art?**

Friday 18 April 2008

Seminar Room 1, 10.30–17.00

At a time when the notion of the book is increasingly challenged by the screen and the computer, this event aims to examine some of the different and inventive ways in which leading contemporary artists have approached this area. It also explores shifting definitions and the recent context for artists' books. Topics include the development and parameters of the genre, the subversive book, private presses and their relationships with artists, formats and production, and artists' books in the digital age.

### **Morning Programme**

10.00 Museum opens

#### **10.30 Welcome**

Introduction to the day by Zoe Whitley, Curator, V&A

#### **10.40 Defining the book**

What is a book today? Who challenges these definitions? When is something an artist's book rather than a book made by an artist?

Susan Johanknecht and Katharine Meynell, curators of the exhibition *Cunning Chapters: A Collaborative Artists' Book*

11.15 Coffee

#### **11.35 The Subversive Book**

Key developments in the history of the artist's book as a tool of subversion.

Stephen Bury, Curator of *Breaking the Rules – The Printed Face of the Avant Garde*, British Library

#### **12.10 The Electronic Book**

The impact of digital technology and electronic publishing on the book and the future of the genre.

Douglas Dodds, Curator, V&A

12.45 Lunch (not provided) and an opportunity to visit Blood on Paper

## Afternoon Programme

### 14.30 The art of the book

Critic, broadcaster and exhibition curator Richard Cork in conversation with V&A Curator Zoe Whitley

### 15.05 The artist's book market.

Sarah Bodman, book artist and Research Fellow for artists' books at the Centre For Print Research, University of West of England, Bristol discusses the relationship between the artist and purchaser within the field of artists' books and the role of the artist's book fair and specialist events that impact on its creative context.

In conversation with Marcus Campbell, organiser of the *London Artists' Book Fair*.

15.40 Coffee

### 16.00 Publishing artist's books

Jane Rolo, Director and founder member of *Bookworks*, and Simon Cutts, co-director of *Coracle* and curator of *Certain Trees*, V&A, talk about their experiences and perspectives on publishing artist's books.

Chaired by Susan Johanknecht, and Katharine Meynell

### 16.35 Panel discussion and audience Q&A chaired by Zoe Whitley

An opportunity for extended discussion and audience questions. The panel will include all speakers plus Rowan Watson, V&A, curator of the exhibition.

17.00 Close