

Sense of Place in Artist Books
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Architecture & Landscape Architecture Library
University of Minnesota

Sense of Place in Artist Books is an exploration of individual art practices through an international, wide-ranging selection of artist books, and represented in a broad spectrum of ways in this collection. Not easily explained in simple context. There are as many ways of describing these books as the sky holds stars –as many thoughts about how we define artist books within the world of handmade books. Perhaps the best way to enlighten the future of artist books is to embrace their limitless and varied possibilities.

As a place of identification artist books can be specific representations in personal times, or places to individually identify with, or we can be in another's place. In very good books we can live in worlds created by someone we think understands us without having to explain ourselves, and we take similar breaths in places others have been. Books can be a place to advocate or promote justice. Policy rights may be explained in clear new reasonable ways. Books can give insights into others, or can be places to heal trauma, or compose our journey.

More frequently in the field of artist books are inclusions of conceptual books, many of which stretch the definition of what makes a book. We can find ourselves amazed with conceptual structures. What's left when coverings and containers are peeled away but to reveal a core collection of words or utterances? We need to learn to explore more than scrutinize whether or not the work fits into limitations and definitions of what a book is.

How are we to save, cultivate, and recognize the contributions of artist books when a new place takes over the old ways? That will not yield entirely to current and evolving communication technologies, but will their unique ways of communicating be lost in years to come?

And as the edges of our understanding are pulled, a viewer is won or lost in new ideas.

Karen Kinoshita, Curator

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