

Artist's books as a genre

by Krassimira Drenska

Since an artists' book is a genre inventing its own rules, it transcends the boundaries between the art of writing and the visual arts, thus creating a particular space for a rich dialogue between them. Each of the printmaking techniques: woodcut, engraving, intaglio or lithography by itself or in combination with drawing or photography can be freely selected. The book has been a particular realm of artistic involvement since the time when an anonymous woodcutter produced the first woodblock, where text and image formed an indivisible unity. The system of signs of the written language was treated as equal to the other system – the images. The book as a space where an artist is free to investigate both sign systems is a privileged sphere.

In fact it is extremely difficult to find a common denominator for the incredibly wide range of artifacts resulting from the artistic involvement with the book form. In the course of centuries the book has become a banal and quotidian object, a page-turner, a mere commodity for some. One of the major concerns of the artist who chooses the book form as field of action, is to work against the habitual pragmatic approach towards the book and thus induce a reception due to a work of art in its own right. Thus the book becomes a means of presenting a vision and sustaining a rich dialogue between the textual and the visual.

Exhibitions of the Artist's books Forum Basel (K. Drenska curates and participates in all exhibitions)

- 2011 „Forum Künstlerbuch Basel zu Gast im Gutenberg Museum Freiburg, Schweiz
- 2011 „BuchBasel“, Messestand des Forum Künstlerbuch Basel, Schweiz
- 2010 „Basel – Budapest – Pas de Deux“, Petfi Irodalmi Múzeum, Budapest, Ungarn
- 2010 „Zwischen Kunst und Poesie“, Totengässlein 5, Raum für Kunst und Literatur, Basel
- 2010 „Seite um Seite“, Galerie Zimmermannhaus, Brugg, Schweiz
- 2009 „Seite um Seite“, Galerie Verein Bildender Künstler Berlin, Deutschland
- 2008 „Laboratorium Künstlerbuch“, SfG Basel, Schweiz
- 2008 „d'une page à l'autre“, FABRIKculture, Hegenheim, Frankreich
- 2007 „Blätter fliegend und gebunden“, Galerie Akademia, Sofia, Bulgarien
- 2006 „Bücher - Bilder - Buchstaben“, Galerie Raum 22, Kilchberg, Schweiz
- 2005 „Büchersendung 4“, Städtische Galerie Stapflehus, Weil am Rhein, Deutschland
- 2005 „Libri d'Artisti“, Galeria Casa di Tolleranza, Milano, Italien
- 2004 „Büchersendung III“, Galerie Maison 44, Basel, Schweiz
- 2004 „Büchersendung II“, Ausstellungsräume der SfG „auf der Lyss“, Basel, Schweiz
- 2004 „Büchersendung I“, Galerie des Max-Planck-Instituts, Greifswald, Deutschland
- 2002 „Künstlerbücher“, Ausstellungsräume der SfG „auf der Lyss“, Basel, Schweiz

Coming exhibitions

- 2013 Museum / Galerie der Akademie der Bildenden Künste Titanikas, Vilnius, Litauen
- 2013 Galerie Maison 44, Basel, Schweiz