FRIENDS OF MURRAY LIBRARY

ARTISTS’ BOOKS

MURRAY LIBRARY’S SPECIAL COLLECTION

FRIENDS OF MURRAY LIBRARY presents a selection of ARTISTS’ BOOKS

DIRECTIONS TO MURRAY LIBRARY

SOUTHBOUND ON US 15:
Travel approximately three miles beyond the Pennsylvania Turnpike interchange to the Lisburn Road exit. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp. Turn right onto Grantham Road. At the entrance to the campus, turn right onto University Avenue and travel to the first stop sign. Turn left and park in the visitor’s lot. Murray Library is past Boyer Hall and Hostetter Chapel.

NORTHBOUND ON US 15:
Travel approximately four miles beyond the PA 74 North intersection near Dillsburg to the Lisburn Road exit. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp. Turn right onto Grantham Road. At the entrance to the campus, turn right onto University Avenue and travel to the stop sign. Turn left and park in the visitor’s lot. Murray Library is past Boyer Hall and Hostetter Chapel.

LIBRARY HOURS:
Monday-Thursday, 8:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.
Friday, 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
Saturday, 11:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.
Sunday, 3:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M.

SUMMER HOURS:
Monday & Wednesday, 8:00 A.M.-8:00 P.M.
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
Closed Weekends

Parking is also located in the rear of the library.

One University Avenue
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717.691.6006

Cover: "What’s Happening with Momma?", Clarissa T. Sligh, 1988. Sligh’s dimensional, house-shaped book literally unfolds to tell a story from the artist’s childhood. In reflecting on her family experiences, Sligh adopts “the eye, the language, the texts and formal ‘naivety’ of childhood.” Designed by Amy Chow and Emily Pratt, Publication Portfolio Class, 2010.
What Are Artists’ Books?

Artists’ books is a unique and ever-evolving form of artistic expression that emerged in the latter half of the 20th century. As defined by Johanna Drucker, an internationally recognized book artist and scholar, the term “artists’ books” refers to those works that are conceived, designed, and realized by artists. This form of art transcends traditional boundaries of content and form, allowing for a rich exchange of experiences between the artist and the viewer.

**In many ways it could be argued that the artist’s book is the quintessential 20th-century artform.” — Johanna Drucker, native Pennsylvanian and internationally recognized book artist**

At Murray Library, the artist’s book is celebrated in a special collection that includes works by many well-known book artists. This collection is a testament to the variety of forms that artists’ books can take, from scrolls and concertinas to pop-ups and volvelles. Artists’ books are not only a form of artistic expression but also a means of communicating ideas and experiences, making them a valuable resource for scholars, students, and art lovers alike.

**Visually exciting and intellectually provocative, artists’ books push to the outermost limits our assumed definition of what a book is, and turn the practice of reading into a novel experience. Artists’ books are, simply, a hybrid art form in which books and art intersect.**

From scrolls, concertinas, and flag books to pop-ups, collages, and other innovative formats, the possibilities are endless. The materials used range from natural vellum and handmade paper to unexpected objects and substances such as wood, textiles, beads, metal, feathers, silk, and stone. The structures and formats are equally varied, from simple scrolls to complex pop-ups and all the permutations in between.

Artists’ books are not only a form of art but also a means of communication and expression. They can be inspired by personal history, literature, music, theater, wonders of the natural world, dreams, and even controversial political and social issues. They may also be created in response to human misery, dramatic events, or even the vicissitudes of love.

The artist’s book is a reflection of the artist’s creativity and ingenuity, and it is a testament to the diversity of artistic expression. At Murray Library, we are proud to house a collection that represents this unique and dynamic art form, and we invite you to get acquainted with the artists’ books in our special collection. A selection is always on display, and the entire collection is available for viewing. Just ask a librarian for access!