

The Art of the Book

What is a book? While Kindles, eBooks, and other technologies have broadened our understanding of what can be considered a book, chances are we'd imagine an object containing written text, whether it is a novel, memoir, or guide. Yet the book is also a versatile and often personal art form, and many artists have embraced its historical function as a means of communication for creative ends.

The Art of the Book explores the exciting world of contemporary book arts in New Mexico, with each featured artist presenting a different interpretation of the book as both a physical object and means of visual expression. Some artists have taken existing books and altered them into new works through collage and deconstruction, while others have created entirely new pieces through papermaking, printmaking, and sewing. Several books include written text, while others forego conventional narrative formats. Some books use traditional designs such as the codex, while others employ more unconventional structures such as decks of cards, geometric shapes, and even clothing. In form, material, and subject matter, the works on view encompass an eclectic array of ideas, but through their diversity they embody a collective love for the book.