

WOMEN at the CENTER

Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture
Duke University Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library

Issue 17, Spring 2010

Book + Art: Artists' Books at Duke + UNC

What do you get when you cross a book with a work of art? Almost anything is possible when you're talking about the vibrant and diverse field of artists' books. During the Fall 2010 semester, the libraries at UNC and Duke will be collaborating to put on a series of artists' book exhibits and events.



A Sad Little Girl by Lise Melhorn-Boe
Transformer Press, 1995

The Bingham Center holds almost 300 artists' books by women, primarily focused on the multifaceted theme of body politics, including explorations of beauty, sexuality, and women's health. Other works reflect collection strengths such as domestic culture, family relationships, and southern women.

An exhibit highlighting recent acquisitions will be on display from October 11 through the end of December 2010 in the Perkins Library Gallery at Duke University. On Thursday, October 21, book artist and photographer Bea Nettles will give a lecture in the Biddle Rare Book Room in Perkins Library. Nettles has been exhibiting and publishing her autobiographical works since 1970 and is currently professor emerita at the University of Illinois. Her work often centers around themes of family relationships. She has also used her

own body to explore topics like women's health and aging. The Sloane Art Library at UNC-Chapel Hill collects artists' books with a broader focus. Exhibits on the history and evolution of book arts will be on display in August and September in the Hanes Art Center and in October in Davis Library on the campus

of UNC-Chapel Hill.

On Tuesday, November 16, Bill and Vicky Stewart of Vamp & Tramp Booksellers will be presenting a trunk show of artists' books as well lecturing at the Hanes Art Center at UNC. The Stewarts represent over 300 contemporary fine presses and book artists and travel all over the country to share their works with institutions and private collectors.

Demonstrations and hands-on workshops in various areas of the book arts will be planned throughout the semester. The series of events will close with a juried artists' book competition open to students and alumni of Duke and UNC as well as NC residents.

For more details about these programs and exhibits, please visit the website listed below.

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<http://library.duke.edu/exhibits/bookart>

SALLIE BINGHAM CENTER
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY AND CULTURE

New Acquisitions

Meinrad Craighead

Meinrad Craighead is a visionary, spiritual artist, and writer whose work focuses on the Divine Feminine. A former nun, Craighead currently lives and works in New Mexico. The collection includes letters, photographs, research, prayer books, and some copies of Craighead's publications and artwork.

Leah Fritz

A writer and feminist activist, Fritz has published two books about U.S. political movements as well as four collections of poetry. Her papers consist largely of poetry manuscripts, typescripts of essays and other writings, correspondence, and activist files.

Triangle Community Works

Triangle Community Works has been working to make the Triangle a positive, healthy, affirming environment for LGBT communities and their allies since 1994. The collection includes historical documents from several of their programs, including A Safer Place Youth Network, Raleigh Religious Network for Gay and Lesbian Equality, and the Gay and Lesbian Helpline.

2010-2011 Mary Lily Research Grants Awarded

The Bingham Center is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Mary Lily Research Grants. These grants allow scholars to travel to Durham to conduct research using the Bingham Center's collections.

Katie Anania, Art History, University of Texas-Austin, for dissertation research on the rise of feminism as a framework for evaluating contemporary art.

Lori A. Brown, Architecture, Syracuse University, for research for a book examining the relationships between space, abortion, and issues of access.

Kate Eichhorn, Culture and Media Studies, The New School, for research comparing zines and scrapbooks as archival collections of ephemera.

Julie Enszer, Women's Studies, University of Maryland, for an examination of lesbian-feminist print culture in Durham,

N.C., 1969-1989, as part of a historical narrative of lesbian-feminist publishing.

Karen Garner, Historical Studies, SUNY Empire State College, for an examination of U.S. global gender policy in the 1990s.

Rebecca N. Mitchell, English, University of Texas – Pan American, for research for an article examining the proto-feminist aspects and eroticism of Victorian mourning attire.

Michelle Moravec, History and Women's Studies, Rosemont College, for research on feminist art activism as a U.S. social movement, 1967-1991.

Whitney Strub, Women's Studies and American Studies, Temple University, for research for a book examining the relationships between queer sexuality, LGBT activism, and antigay activity in the post-WWII United States.

<http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/bingham/grants>

Muriel Henderson: "A Full and Active Life"

The Sallie Bingham Center recently acquired the papers of Muriel Woods Henderson, a missionary and active letter-writer known to her family and friends as "Ki." After moving to Portugal in 1947 with her husband Lawrence (Larry) Henderson and their two daughters to learn Portuguese, Henderson and her family served as missionaries in Angola from 1947 to 1969. The collection comprises journals and letters from this time as well as correspondence with friends from Angola with whom Henderson kept in touch through-



Muriel Henderson

out the remainder of her life. The collection also contains materials documenting her family's life in the early 20th century in the Pacific Northwest, mostly in or around her hometown of Tacoma, Washington, including photographs, diaries, children's drawings and letters, school report cards, diplomas, letters, and ledgers of household expenses.

The bulk of the papers relate to Henderson's personal and family history, encompassing both the Woods and Henderson families with numerous reminiscences from family members.

New Endowment Honors Jean Fox O'Barr

The newly endowed Jean O'Barr Fund will support all facets of programming and collections in the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture. The outpouring of gifts is a testament to the impact Jean has had on so many students, colleagues, and friends throughout her career. The Bingham Center offers its sincere appreciation to the following donors for their generous support.

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Jane Stoddard Williams
Suzanne Mann Zilber

Instruction & Outreach

Bingham Center staff hosted a variety of instruction sessions this spring for students in the following courses:

Archival Appraisal
(UNC School of Information and Library Science)

The Art of Comic Books and Zines
(Visual Arts)

Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights
(Sexuality Studies)

Interpreting Beauty
(Writing 20)

Interpreting Bodies: Identity and Beyond
(Women's Studies)

Stories of Freedom and Action
(Writing 20)

Taking Our Bodies Back: the Women's Health Movement of the 1970s
(Women's Studies)

Women as Leaders
(Public Policy)

It's not too late to donate to the Jean O'Barr Fund!

<http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/bingham/education-symposium/donate.html>

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Sallie Bingham Center for
Women's History and Culture

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<http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/bingham/>

Installing “The Basement” on the Second Floor



Left: Megan Lewis and Laurel Fredrickson dress “Johnnie;” Right: The completed installation

On Monday, April 19, filmmakers Sophie Keir-Thompson and Mary Beth Ross enlisted the help of Bingham Center staff and volunteers to reconstruct Kate Millett’s *The Trial of Sylvia Likens*, an environmental art installation based on real events described in Millett’s book, *The Basement*, a compelling account of the life and 1965 death of 16-year-old Sylvia Likens. A full account of this project is posted on the Special Collections Library’s blog, “The Devil’s Tale,” linked below.

<http://dukelibrariesrbmscl.blogspot.com/2010/04/re-installing-basement.html>