



Bringing art and people together

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Art Center to Host Exhibition on Books and Art

Summit, NJ: The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey will host *Bibliomania*, a new exhibition that looks at the various ways contemporary artists are using the book as subject matter for art. A “book” used to be defined as a number of printed or written pages bound together along one edge, protected by covers. Today, the concept of the book continues to evolve and expand, most notably in the direction of digital media.

Interestingly, many contemporary artists are making art about books—photographing them, arranging them, drawing and painting them, dissecting them and making sculptural facsimiles of them—always finding various ways to address the book as subject matter for their work. Ironically, while the *content* of books becomes increasingly more accessible with the advent of electronic readers e-books and digitized books, artists seem to be paying more attention to the book as an *object*.

Why, at this moment in time, are some artists focusing their attention on the good-old-fashioned bound volume? Does this stem from a growing anxiety over the possible obsolescence of books? Are books becoming cultural artifacts, and are artists treating them as relics, and perhaps even fetishizing them? Whatever the motivation, many artists are making provocative works that challenge viewers to consider the roles and meaning of books in our lives.

Bibliomania

October 7 – December 11, 2011

Opening Reception October 14, 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm

Main Gallery: Monday – Thursday 9:30am – 8pm, Friday 9:30am – 5pm, and Saturday & Sunday 10am – 4pm.

Suggested Admission: Adults \$5; Seniors/Kids \$3; Art Center Members free

Related Programs to *Bibliomania*:

The Future of the Book: A Panel Discussion

October 27, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

A distinguished panel of experts will explore the future of the book in a digital age. Dr. Laura Winters, Professor of Literature at the College of St. Elizabeth in Madison, will moderate. Panelists: C. Max Magee, creator and editor of *The Millions*, an online magazine, and co-editor of *The Late American Novel: Writers on the Future of*

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Bibliomania 2/2

Books; Alexandria Arnold, Assistant Director of the Summit Public Library; Joy Garnett, painter and media artist featured in *Bibliomania*; and Marc Aronson, Lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Science at Rutgers University and Young Adult author. Free event open to all.

Accordion Book Mania

November 13, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

Artist Erin Sweeney leads a creative book arts project open to all. Free event.

About the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey

Founded in 1933, the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey is the state's largest organization dedicated exclusively to viewing, making and learning about contemporary art. Comprising a renowned studio school and a thriving exhibition, education and programming schedule, the Art Center welcomes over 60,000 visitors each year.