

CBBAG - OTTAWA VALLEY

Minutes

November 8, 2017

Theme: Hugh Barclay presents his books

Chair

Next month, in addition to the themed structures demo by Susan (which was something of a surprise to her), we will be holding our garage sale. No commission will be collected from sales by the Chapter. If you have something to sell, bring it. The December meeting will not be a party, so snacks should be brought by those who want them. Diane Parkin offered to bring a fruitcake.

The exhibit is up at the Shenkman Centre. It was set up on November 1st. Take down will be November 28th, with works being available at the December meeting for repossession. Steve took photos, which appear on a rotating slide show on our website. There was a small appreciative audience at the opening.

Steve asked about planning for the Book Arts Show. Spike reported that planning will start soon, and that nothing needs to be done as yet.

Workshops

The gelli plate printing workshop went very well, with 7 participants. On November 11, Spike will offer her custom container workshop, which has 6 people registered so far. Larry will be working with linocuts in December. This month, Spike was in London, auditing Dan Mezza's class, Bookbinding I. They compared teaching methods and decided that Spike is doing everything right when she teaches that class. Dan runs these classes out of his home, where he has his own bindery in the basement. James Spyker will do his leather books in January. Someone at Dan's class had taken that workshop, and was able to show Spike what she had made.

Website

There is a list of sources, including books and supplies, even those required in Bookbinding 101, now on the website. Translation into French will come soon.

Monthly Challenge

The topic chosen this time was greeting cards.

Show and Tell

Susan showed how she had bound Steve's alphabet book, which had been distributed last month, with the paper she had created at the gelli plate workshop. For the Youtube video challenge, she made a book using 6 envelopes. Papers were glued over all the envelopes. Gayle had a folded book, with an ampersand cut out of the fore edge. Madeleine had seen a book on the Bow Valley Calligraphy Guild website, FauxDori Traveller's Notebook. Three signatures were held together by elastic bands, inside a leather cover. This year, Madeleine joined the Québec Society of bookbinders, and she showed an issue of the magazine she now subscribes to, *Art & Métiers du Livre*.

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Roxanne brought her completed book, *Here and There*, which lies flat when open. Diane was proud to show her swap book, of recipes, finally finished. She had consulted a video on single page binding, and found that the tape used to strengthen thinner papers and as tabs did not like to stick.

Paul had made a book for Nancy French, which she showed. She reported that her show last weekend was successful, and that more shows were coming up in the next few weeks. Spike showed her gelli prints, and the things she had made while at Dan's in London. For her challenge, she made over a book, originally received from Holly & Larry, in a double fan binding. She had another copy of the book, which acted as the "before" sample.

Monthly Challenge Websites

Envelope book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zh58jqkMc4>

The folded book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwkO4LcyzKY>

FauxDori traveller's notebook: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=vjDMwmM7mns>

Double fan binding: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eTvCrjzpW8>

Program

Hugh Barclay had a selection of his books, and spoke about how they came about. He does books that he feels need to go out there, and is normally contacted by the authors. His current work, entitled *Fuck You*, is a poem, written by a woman, concerning the way men deal with women. He started his presentation with a book published in 1981, containing a long poem written by a gay man, who was murdered soon afterwards. His co-worker, "Stupid Hugh", is responsible for all the mistakes that happen in the studio.

His book of poems bound in the fabric of the poor, written by a Cree woman, who went to Vancouver, spoke of what happened in the place she managed. Gayle read the first poem to the group. Each of these things has an impact. *The Truth About Rabbits* contained 7 engravings by Larry, and showed how two private presses collaborated on one book. Marilyn Simmons used leaves from her own garden on the endpapers of *The Paradise Project*. Her son will take over Hugh's press.

Hugh obtained the rights to publish a book of poems by Al Purdy, *AL*. All proceeds from this book will go to Purdy's cottage. 100 copies were produced, which sold out before the book was printed. Each book has watercolour paintings. *The Unfortunate Report & Tragical Tidings of Leslie Barger*, by John Wall Barger, had holes in the cover, representing bullet holes. It also had watercolour paintings. *Hsin*, was written by Nanci Lee, whose mother was Chinese and father Syrian. She had been put up for adoption when the parents split up. *Join the Cosmic Dance* featured embossed dancers on the covers and text pages. It helped a woman manage her mind, while dealing with cancer. Larry did a print for *Out of the Mouth*, written by a man whose son had seizures.

Hugh mentioned that the authors helped him set the type for their books. He clarified that font is a French word meaning an assortment of type, and that it might be difficult to get this message to the millions of computer users worldwide. The origin of chapbooks is interesting. In earlier times, books were sold by chapters, and often by chaps who went door to door to sell them. Hugh was asked how long he guaranteed his books for. These books, which are printed on acid-free paper, will last for 500 years. If the book does not last, the original owner can return it and get his money back!

Next Meeting

December 13, Themed structures, Susan Pinard

13 in attendance