



Celebrating Artist's Books

Swan's Fine Books is excited to bring you a short list of artist's books; we've selected 15 fine editions to take you on a journey worthy of only the true lover of poetry and art. Each selection features a vibrant homage to the text using a wide spectrum of mediums from contemporary artists, with the offerings spanning the past five decades; from the Rampant Lions Press edition of Beckett's *The North* published in 1972 to the two items by The Studio of Nothing Else, which debuted at Codex in February.

The idea for this short e-list was sparked by our desire to honor the 100th birthday of poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti, which was celebrated on March 24. Like Ferlinghetti's *Back Roads to Far Places*, we aim to take you on a journey. Our list begins with Ferlinghetti's own linked verses, explores new voices from the Bay Area's thriving art and

poetry community, honors some of the great literary voices of the 21st century, satirizes Adam and Eve, wonders at two lush gardens, and ends firmly in the Inferno with Dante. In one hundred years Ferlinghetti authored works in many varying genres, supporting and collaborating with countless writers and artists. We hope you'll enjoy a sampling of our own inventory, compiled in that same spirit.



*I am what I am
And will be
What I will be*



Back Roads to Far Places, After Basho

Back Roads to Far Places After Basho

Ferlinghetti, Lawrence (Poet); Peek, Stephanie (Artist)

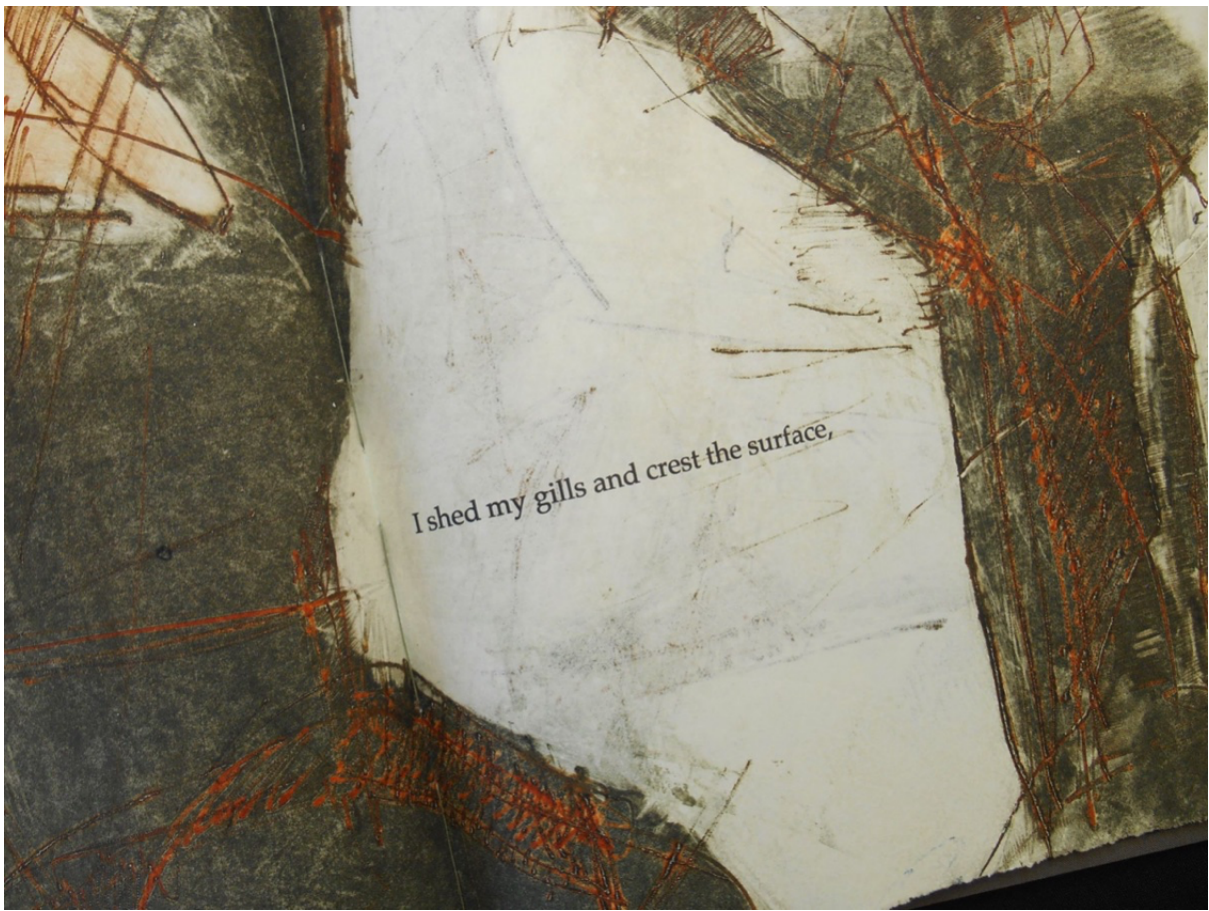
San Francisco: Stephanie Peek [printed by Digger Pine Press and Tokugenji Press], 2003. Peeks, Stephanie. Limited Edition. No binding. No. 6 of 10, scroll format (13" by 91" when unravelled), signed by Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Stephanie Peek (with her chop).

This collaborative work between two San Francisco artists, poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti (b. 1919) and artist Stephanie Peek, subverts the traditional book form and showcases both artists' inimitable talents in poetry and etching in the form of a traditional Japanese scroll; over seven feet long when unravelled, the scroll creates a contemplative space for Ferlinghetti's haikus and Peek's etchings. The poetry, after Japanese poet Basho, is a celebration of the natural world as well as the humanity and compassion found in all creatures; Ferlinghetti writes, "I am what I am / And will be / what I will be".

The scroll is wrapped in a delicate white Japanese paper, and housed in a paulownia wood box, which has the "signature" (a stylized initial) of Lawrence Ferlinghetti in black ink and Stephanie Peek's chop printed in red on the lid. The entire work, from the opening of the wood box to the unravelling of the scroll, offers a tactile experience that complements the force of the words and images in this mingling of American and Japanese printmaking and scroll-making.

Item #18092006

Price: \$3,500.00



Fog Frac/Tured Pangea



Fog Frac/Tured Pangea

**Ebner, Barry (Artist); Sharon Coleman, Indigo Moor,
Liz McCall (Poems)**

Berkeley: The Studio of Nothing Else, 2018. Ebner, Barry. Limited Edition. Hardcover. One of a variable edition of 21, elephant folio size, [48] pp. Fine.

"Fog Frac/Tured Pangea" is a collaboration between one artist and three poets, featuring the monotypes of Barry Ebner; because the imagery is created through the use of monotype overtop drypoint lines, each print in the book is unique, forming a variable edition. Each book contains one

poem, the text weaving throughout the chaotic images, by one of three San Francisco Bay Area poets: Sharon Coleman, long-time Berkeley-based poet and teacher; Indigo Moor, Poet Laureate of Sacramento; and Liz McCall, Oakland-based poet and artist, and assistant to Barry, whose poem is featured in this particular volume.

Barry works intuitively through each image, creating a surface of both turbulent mark making and gently overlapping spaces, in a work that is as much visceral as visual; the text interacts within the space as another visual element, and each poem forms a different reading of the monotypes, as text and image dance on the printed page. Item #CNBE01

Price: \$2,000.00



Fragments

Ebner, Barry; Moor, Indigo (Poem)

Berkeley: The Studio of Nothing Else, 2018. Ebner, Barry. Limited Edition. Accordion. One of 25 copies, quarto size, [12] pp.

"Fragments" is a variable edition of accordion books by Berkeley-based artist Barry Ebner, created with a series of monotypes collaged together, to form a seamless surface for the text to interact upon; because the imagery is created through the use of monotype overtop drypoint lines, each print in the book is unique.

The text is taken from a poem by Indigo Moor, Poet Laureate of Sacramento, California, printed first on separate sheets of monotypes, then sequenced into the accordion structure. The effect is a dreamlike reading of the poem, as the text can be partially obscured, existing in a space of dark and light. Item #CNBE02

Price: \$600.00



The North

Beckett, Samuel; Arikha, Avigdor (Artist)

Cambridge: Rampant Lions Press for The Enitharmon Press, 1972. Arikha,

Avigdor. Limited First Edition. Folio. Number XIII of XV copies, folio size, [24] pp., with an extra suite of three etchings, all of which are signed by the artist, signed by Samuel Beckett on the limitation page.

"The North" is a paragraph extracted from the short prose work "The Lost Ones" originally published as "Le Depeupleur" Paris: Les Editions de Minuit, 1971, by Samuel Beckett (1906-1989). The story has no plot, but is rather a metaphorical exploration of the landscape of the unconscious mind, evoked through the image of a flattened cylinder and its crowded inhabitants.

Avigdor Arikha (1929-2010) was a close friend of Samuel Beckett, who he met in Paris, where he settled after escaping a Nazi concentration camp. He is regarded among Israel's greatest postwar artists, and was named a Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur in 2005. His images of "the woman vanquished" are chillingly somber, and darkly chaotic. A remarkable collaboration between two great artists of the twentieth-century. This is from a special edition of 15 copies which were produced primarily for the publisher Alan Clodd. These were not issued in a slipcase. Item #CNJL566

Price: \$4,000.00



Volcanic Holiday



Volcanic Holiday

Merrill, James (Author); Tanning, Dorothea (Artist)

[Nadja Press], 1992. Tanning, Dorothea. Limited Edition. No. IV of X of the deluxe edition with a separate suite of etchings (total edition 110). Slightly oblong, unbound sheets, duodecimo size, 40 pp., signed by James Merrill and Dorothea Tanning.

With prospectus and related material. Per a small slip of paper laid in headed "Recent Documentation", announcing "On the eve of distribution, 'Volcanic Holiday' has already been part of the New York Public Library's 'Dorothea Tanning: Hail, Delirium!', a retrospective of the artist's work in graphics (1942-1991); Cooper Union's 'Printed Response to the Written Word'; and featured in a film documentary on Dorothea Tanning, with James Merrill reading 'Volcanic Holiday' ". Item #CNJL1154

Price: \$7,000.00



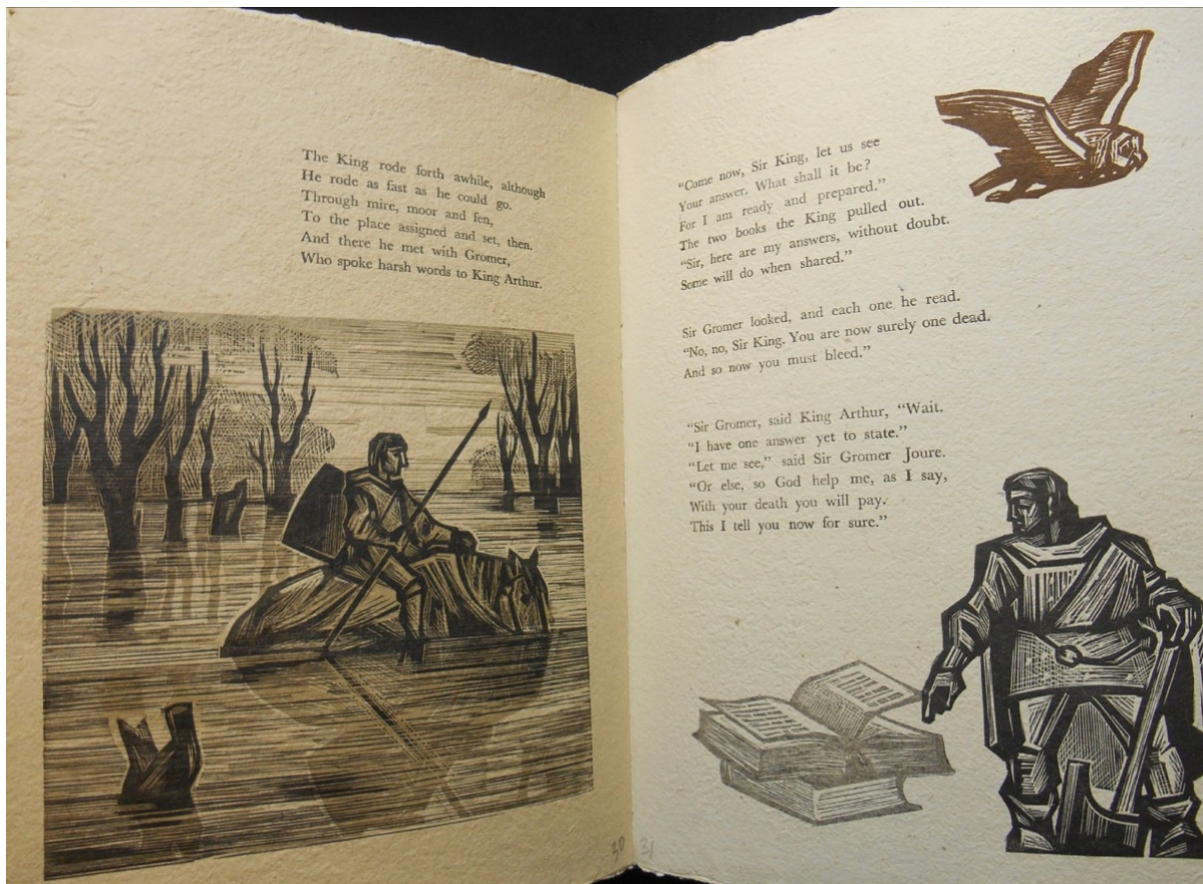
Todesfuge [DeathFugue]

Celan, Paul; Kuball, Mischa (Artist)

New York: [Edition Gunnar A. Kaldewey] Printed in the tower of Poestenkill, 1984. Kuball, Mischa. Limited Edition. Hardcover. Folio - over 12 - 15" tall. 40 p. Signed by Artist.

Todesfuge (DeathFugue) is one of the "great and terrifying literary works" written by a survivor of the Holocaust. This version, published by the Kaldewey Press, unites Celan's moving poetry with the papercut artwork of Mischa Kuball, a Dusseldorf born artist known for his interest in space-related art and graphics. All text in German. Item #CNJL203

Price: \$2,500.00




The Wedding of Sir Gawain

THE WEDDING OF SIR GAWAIN

Linocuts by Dmitry Sayenko



Adaptation into contemporary
English by James J. Owens

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St. Petersburg, 2018

The Wedding of Sir Gawain

[Arthurian Legend]; Madden, Frederick (1839
Transcription); Owens, James J. (Modern English
Rendering); Sayenko, Dmitry (Book Artist)

St. Petersburg: [Dmitry Sayenko], 2018. Sayenko, Dmitry. Limited Edition. Hardcover. No. 6 of 20, folio size, 56 pp., signed by James J. Owens and Dmitry Sayenko, with softcover volume.

Dmitry Sayenko (b. 1965) is a Russian printmaker and book artist; in 1995, he graduated from the Mukhina Art School in St. Petersburg, where he still lives and works, and he continues to teach book arts as he prints and binds his own books. His works are in private collections as well as institutions around the world.

"The Wedding of Sir Gawain" is a modern English rendering of the fifteenth-century poem, with the text by James J. Owens, antiquarian bookseller and co-owner of Thorn Books, ABAA, and linocuts by Sayenko. For this project, Sayenko travelled to England and Scotland to study the mediaeval art and architecture, and his linocuts reflect this style. In addition to creating the linocuts, Dmitry printed and bound the book, and made the paper by hand, to form a tactile experience that transcends merely reading the book; a few of the pages are even hand-torn to imitate the effect of rats gnawing through paper, to the point of obscuring some of the text and illustrations.

This work is comprised of two companion books; the main volume is the artist book, containing about 50 linocuts with fragments of the medieval text. The companion book is softbound and contains the full text of the legend; both are housed in a single slipcase. Item #18101002

Price: \$2,750.00



King, Queen, Knight and Pawn (Remarkable Masters of Chess)

**Sayenko, Dmitry; Bodman, Sarah and Veres, Paul
(Text Adaptation)**

St. Petersburg: Dmitry Sayenko, 2019. Sayenko, Dmitry. Limited Edition. Hardcover. No. 1 of 20, oblong octavo size, approx. [40] pp., signed by Dmitry Sayenko on the colophon.

The game of chess has a nuanced and fascinating history, and Dmitry Sayenko presents an engaging account of the development of the game, copiously illustrated with stunning linocuts; each page is filled with illustrations of the varied characters and versions of chess described in the text. Sayenko's illustrative style perfectly captures the flurry of anecdotes and the history of chess that fill the book; the visual aesthetic of the

linocuts, as they weave throughout the text and spread across pages, is as necessary to experiencing the book as the actual comprehension of the words.

This volume comes in a lovely slipcase made of wood, with checkerboard patterns printed on the front and rear side, and wooden chess pieces adhered over the pattern. Each element of the book is painstakingly considered, to create a participation, a tactile resonance that connects the viewer with the subject of chess. Item #19020401

Price: \$2,400.00



The Departure of the Argonaut



The Departure of the Argonaut

Savinio, Alberto [Andrea Francesco Alberto deChirico] (Author); Scrivani, George (Translator); Clemente, Francesco (Artist)

(London): Petersburg Press, 1986. Clemente, Francesco. Limited Edition. Soft cover. No. 98 of 200, total 288, double elephant size, signed by artist Francesco Clemente.

In this volume, Clemente has illuminated Alberto Savinio's (1891-1952) autobiographical wartime voyage of 1917. By overlaying words with brightly coloured images and colours, Clemente creates an energy and rhythm to augment the author's expansive musings. Clemente used an considerable range of lithographic techniques including stones, aluminum plates, and

acetates. He drew with standard litho crayons and tuesche, but also used graphite and graphite washes, rapidographs and pen and ink, transfer paper and various blotting techniques, achieving a remarkable variety of visual effects.

Acting as a dark shaman of the post-modern era while reacting against the dominance of increasing abstraction in preceding generations, Francesco Clemente (b. 1952) helped reinvigorate painting by using recognizable human figures as his primary subject. In idiosyncratic and arresting images, he uses Neo-Expressionist techniques to represent late twentieth century people and their psychological conditions - fundamentally questioning what is real and what is of value to the human spirit. Clemente depicts many of the darker, unspoken or conflicting psychological aspects of being human, significantly updating earlier art movements of the late modern era, drawing on Surrealism's dream-like extensions and transgressions of ordinary daily life, and building on Expressionism's revelations of interior emotional states. Item #CNJL1128

Price: \$7,000.00



The Prelude



The Prelude

**Wordsworth, William; Esslemont, David (Artist);
Woof, Robert (Editor); Gill, Stephen (Foreword)**

Grasmere: The Wordsworth Trust, 2007. Esslemont, David. Limited Edition. Leather bound. Number 2 of 10 copies in a special binding (total edition 200) and with an extra set of illustrations, quarto, 380 pp., inscribed

by David Esslemont.

David Esslemont (b. 1953) is known as an artist, designer, printer, bookbinder and publisher. He began his career working with books at the Gregynog Press in Wales and, while still with them, began publishing his own books in 1978.

Per the book's prospectus, "This edition of Wordsworth's masterpiece follows the text of one of the Trust's greatest treasures, the fair copy made by Dorothy Wordsworth in 1805-6 known as 'Manuscript A'...

The volume is illustrated with fourteen watercolours, one facing the start of every 'Book' and one used as a frontispiece; they were printed digitally using archival inks, with the images being details from a single watercolour.

The special binding copies, of which this is one, includes all fourteen watercolors as separate prints together with a fifteenth that makes up the full picture. Item #CNJL1388

Price: \$6,000.00



12 O'Clock News

Bishop, Elizabeth (Author); Rothchild, Judith (Artist)

[Octon, France]: Verdigris, [2006]. Rothchild, Judith. Limited Edition. Japanese Stab Binding. No. 6 of 10 deluxe copies (total edition 50) with original copper plate and separate mezzotint, oblong folio size, 28 pp., signed by Judith Rothchild.

Pulitzer Prize winning poet Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979) wrote this poem in 1976, and was originally published in GEOGRAPHY III. Judith Rothchild has put images to Bishop's words in a parallel and parody of Colin Powell's address to the UN in 2003 regarding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction by highlighting the trivial items on her desk and magnifying them with her black and white mezzotints, similar to how the Powell's black-and-white images were shown at the UN. Item #CNJL1217

Price: \$2,500.00



Excerpts from The Diaries of

Adam & Eve

Twain, Mark; Hobson, Charles (Artist)

[San Francisco]: Pacific Editions, 2003. Hobson, Charles. Limited Edition. Hardcover. Folio - over 12 - 15" tall Signed by Book Designer.

Limited edition of 38 copies, this being no. 35. Charles Hobson, book artist extraordinaire, has brought together a perfectly lovely tale of love by Mark Twain, personified with images of a running man and woman based on the human motion studies by Eadweard Muybridge made in 1901. Twain wrote two separate stories, "Extracts for Adam's Diary" and later "Eve's Diary", with much of the sentiment of the two for each other derived from the deep love he and his wife, Livy, shared throughout their lives. The French Door design of the binding of this book enables the reader to compare Adam's and Eve's "diaries" while the two figures race towards each other.

Item #CNJL502

Price: \$2,500.00



Exoticum; Twenty-Five Desert Plants from the Huntington Gardens

Dobb, Edwin; Wagener, Richard (Artist)

Mixolydian Editions, 2017. Wagener, Richard. Limited Edition. Hardcover. Lettered copy "V" of 26 special edition copies, folio size, [67] pp., signed by Richard Wagener and Edwin Dobbs, with prospectus and folio of six prints signed by Wagener.

The meticulous detail and rich shades of the wood engraving are articulated in the work of Richard Wagener (b. 1944), an American wood engraver who creates gorgeous and detailed landscape scenes as well as abstract engravings. In this volume Wagener shows us the beauty and diversity of desert plants found at the Huntington Gardens in San Marino, California; the gardens contain many plants from around the world.

This volume is a gorgeous publication from Mixolydian Editions, Wagener's own imprint, and includes an essay by Edwin Dobb, interspersed throughout the book to form a rhythm with the engravings. One of the special edition, this copy includes six loose wood engravings, each signed by Wagener, five of which are from the edition in the book and the sixth a special printing of the bladderpod plant engraving, which began the series. Item #18122001

Price: \$1,450.00



Garden

Westerman, Donna Day

Orinda, California: Donna Day Westerman, [2017]. Westerman, Donna Day. Limited Edition. Hardcover. Number four of ten, quarto size, four folded leaves, signed by the artist.

Limited edition, number four of ten. Donna Day Westerman is a printmaker and painter in the Bay Area of California. She works in "traditional and historical" media, particularly, woodcuts, wood-engravings and egg tempera to create contemporary compositions. She works from close observation, and occasionally referring to her own photographs: "A kind of erasure takes place as the visual abundance... is distilled into the essence of the place." The present volume captures the enchanting beauty of Eileen and Kyle Fitz-Faulkner's private garden. Item #CNDDW05

Price: \$1,700.00



The Divine Comedy



The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri: Inferno, A Verse Translation Dante; Phillips, Tom (Artist and Translator)

London: Talfourd Press, 1983. Limited Edition. No binding. No. 90 of 100 copies (total edition approximately 185), elephant folio size, 432 pp., signed by Tom Phillips. Accompanied by the Thames and Hudson trade edition as a reading copy.

Tom Phillips was inspired to create his visually stunning version of Dante when he found a "lavish, red, gilded edition of Dante's 'Inferno' illustrated by Gustave Dore". His vision for this version was "to make the book a container for the energy usually expended on large scale paintings. The artist thus tries to reveal the artist in the poet and the poet helps to uncover / release the poet in the artist".

As the LA Times wrote when reviewing the trade edition, "there is no doubt that Tom Phillips has captured Dante for our time. His prodigious achievement is not so much illustration as it is visual commentary, a fidelity to Dante's spirit at the occasional expense of the literal action of the poem." Mr. Phillips spent seven years creating this livre d'artiste, published in an edition of "approximately" 185 copies, 100 of which were sold in sheets as a boxed set. For his illustration and providing a new translation of the "Inferno" Phillips received the Frances Williams Memorial Prize in 1983; he also made a TV version of the Inferno with

Peter Greenaway which won them jointly as directors the Italia prize. Item
#CNJL1300

Price: \$12,000.00



The Fine Print

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