Book Art SIG Annual Meeting
April 19, 2009, 5:15-6:00pm

Moderators: Yuki Hibben & Laurie Whitehill Chong
Recorder: Laurie Whitehill Chong

The following were in attendance:

Yuki Hibben, Coordinator, ARLIS/NA Book Art Special Interest Group
(Virginia Commonwealth)

Laurie Whitehill Chong, Vice-Coordinator, ARLIS/NA Book Art Special Interest Group
(RI School of Design)

Mary Anne Dyer
(Virginia Commonwealth)

Nancy Pistorius
(U. New Mexico)

Tony White
(Indiana U. Bloomington)

Richard Minsky
(Book Artist and publisher, New York)

Introductions were made around the table followed by reports on the two book art related events at this conference. Mary Anne Dyer had attended the artist book cataloging workshop a few days earlier and showed us the workbook entitled, “The Art of cataloging Artists’ Books: a training manual”, that had been created by Sylvia Turchyn of Indiana University, Bloomington, specifically for the workshop. A brief discussion of the need for a more standardized controlled vocabulary for artists’ books followed. Tony White reported that the Letterpress Workshop, also held on Friday at Bloomington, was a great success, although many did not have time to actually bind their small printed books.

Attendees then described how their artist book collections are used at their respective institutions. Following this overview, members reported on book art conferences and book fairs they had attended during this academic year. These included the ARLIS/NY Contemporary Artists’ Books Conference in New York City, October 23-26, 2008; the College Book Art Association first biennial conference “Art, Fact, and Artifact: the book in time and place”, at the University of Iowa, January 8-10, 2009; and the Codex Foundation Book Fair, “Considering the Book as a Work of Art”, in Berkeley, CA February 8-11, 2009. Some will also be attending “The Hybrid Book Conference and Fair” at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, June 4-6, 2009.

The group discussed possible options for communicating with each other during the year, including having our own blog or webpage linked to the ARLIS/NA page. Yuki Hibben said
she would look into this possibility. We also discussed using Facebook or simply using ARLIS-L with the subject line to flag interested readers.

Tony White, newly appointed “Field Editor for Artists’ Books and Books for Artists” for the College Art Association, asked for recommendations of persons who could write scholarly book reviews of artists’ books.

Richard Minsky clarified the name of our group by suggesting that we use the singular form of “book art” instead of the plural. The group agreed that this change to “Book Art Special Interest Group” would be an improvement.

Several ideas for proposed tours or workshops were discussed for the Boston conference in 2010. Among these were:

Bookbinding workshop at the North Bennett Street School in Boston.  
http://www.nbss.org/home/

Tours to see artists’ books at the Boston Public Library and/or the Boston Athenaeum.  
http://www.bostonathenaeum.org/home.html  search online catalog for subject “artists books”  
http://www.bpl.org/catalogs/  search online catalog for subject “artists books”  

Tours of the Fort Point Arts Community studios in Boston, some of which are book artists.  
http://www.fortpointarts.org/cgi-bin/FPAC

Tour to Providence to see the new RISD Library and the Artists’ Books collection.  
http://www.risd.edu/risd_library.cfm

Due to the lateness of our scheduled meeting and the last buses departing for the Indianapolis Museum of Art reception, the meeting adjourned early at 6:00 pm. It was noted that next year we would like to request a better time slot.

Laurie Whitehill Chong will be coordinating the group this year and at the Boston conference. However, because there were not many members in attendance and because of the lateness of the hour, the question of who will coordinate this group in 2010/11 was not addressed. We will need to communicate with the group during the year and take up this issue then.