



## Artist in the Library

The Library of John Baldessari: a case study on the role of the library in the inspiration and production of the artist



# As a personal Librarian & Archivist to an Artist

- What I do...
  - Mostly the Archivist, but also the Librarian
    - Documenting art and sometimes artist books
  - Applying order to the book collection
    - Library of Congress cataloging for browse-ability
  - Advocacy within the studio
    - Resources for JB & as an important collection



# What kind of sources?

- Primary sources in the archive
  - Photographs, clippings, writings
- Secondary sources in the library
  - Books on art and artists
    - Exhibition catalogs - 30%
    - Artist Monographs - 30%
- Books on other topics
  - Literary theory - 15%
  - Visual studies - 10%
  - Literature and Poetry – 15%



# How sources are used?

- Text
- Image



# Sources of Inspiration and Production

“The library is no different than the museum – they both offer information to the eye and the mind and thus serve as inspiration for work”  
– Johanna Drucker, Artist, Author and  
Professor of Bibliography and Information Studies, UCLA

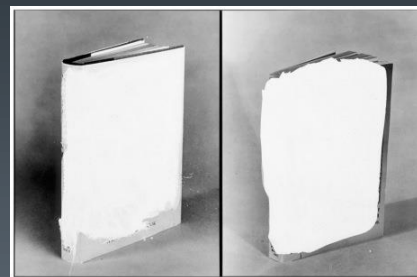
- Images in books as a surrogate for art



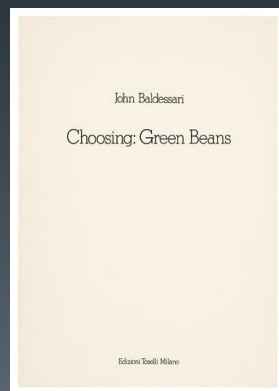
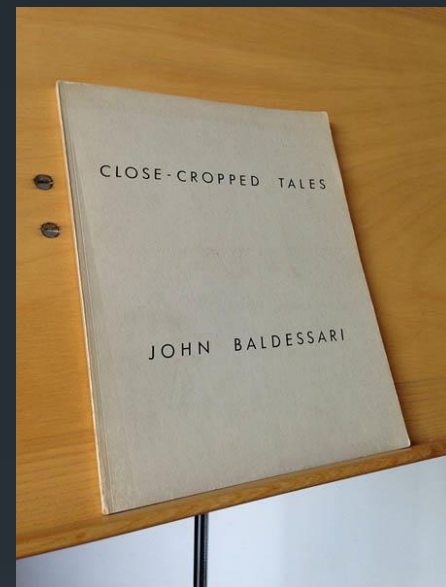
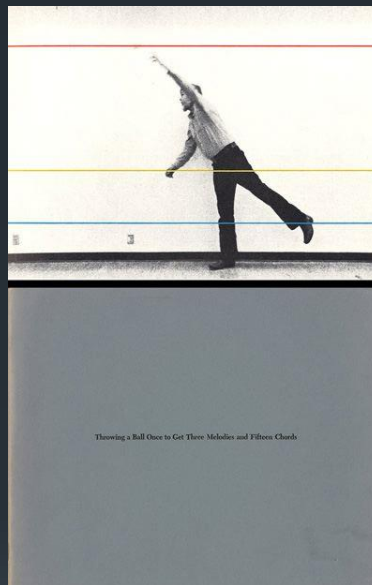
- Books as art



- Images of books in art



# Livre d'artiste: an Artist who makes books



# In Conclusion: Serving the needs of the Artist

- Library resources serve artists as sources of inspiration for their artistic practice, textually and visually
- Specifically, exhibition catalogs, artist monographs and art magazines are invaluable resources for artists
- Become aware of the local artists and their work in order to learn how the library can serve their creative needs
- Food for thought: Artists' relationship to sources is different than that of scholars

