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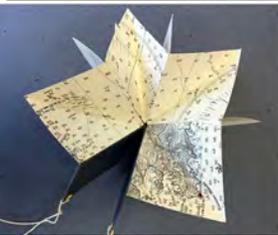
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"The way I see the world is reflected in my art. Widowed at the young age of twenty-four, I was thrust into the maw of unbearable pain and unanswerable questions about death and loss; this sparked a steady and consuming response of creative work."

Kathy Hettinga



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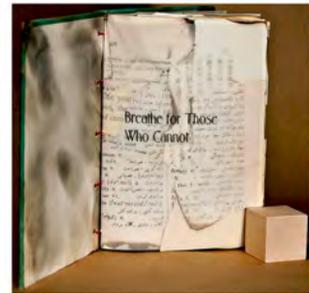


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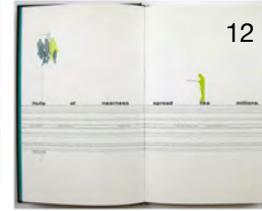
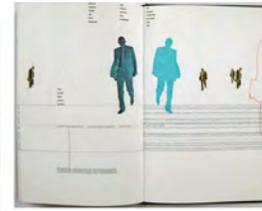
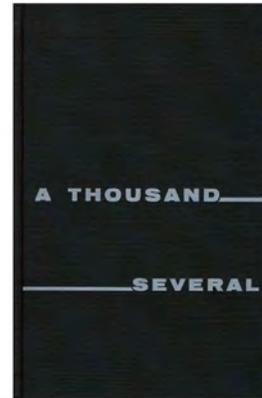
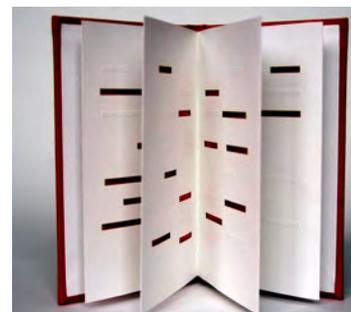
"My prints, books and drawings are about the poetry of solitude and memory. They are about the comfort and poignancy of beauty, reminiscence and longing. Searching for and creating this comfort are essential human endeavors. What we make and what we find are necessarily juxtaposed to the pain and suffering of loss. The rich morsels that we collect help us to live an existence in which answers may not be forthcoming to our most fundamental questions." Diane Fine

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Reading Pain
Artists' Books and
the Aesthetics of
Women in Anguish
Amanda C. R. Clark,
Library Director,
Whitworth University
Sophia Du Val,
graduate student, Pratt
Institute, NY



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Theorist Theodor Adorno sought to define contemporary art as communicative of the pain of the modern lived experience; here we see an example of such an exploration in the form of women's artists' books. Adorno, critiquing established definitions of beauty sought to find evidence of latent angst in the works of contemporary artists.

Artists' books—books that are art, or art in the form of a book—often confront challenging subjects. Topics of gender identity, loss, infertility, and mental-health concerns find a venue of communication through the book arts.



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Through this slow-paced, yet deeply nourishing environment the viewer is brought close to the narrative, idea, and story of the artists' book, however intimate or pain-laden the topic. "My books make different sounds when the reader flips through them. If you listen carefully, you can hear the pages talking." Veronika Schäpers