

Arts and Voices

Asian American Artists Books at the Claremont Colleges Libraries



The Asian American book artists and their works highlighted here are available at The Claremont Colleges Special Collections and Scripps College Denison Library. These works showcase Asian American book artists' contributions to book arts, pursuit of self-identity, social justice, and connection to their cultural heritage through their artistic expressions of book arts.

1. **The Veil (2002)**

Julie Chen

27 x 11 cm, in box 33 x 21 x 3 cm

Toy and movable books; accordion fold format

Limited edition of 100 copies.

Denison Library copy is no. 26, signed & numbered by the artist.

"**The Veil**" presents personal reflections inspired by the current political situation in the Middle East and the world. In carousel book format with shaped and intricately cut pages, the story unfolds in a richly beautiful, but strangely disquieting setting."--Vamp and Tramp website.

“The Book is a nested accordion structure. Each numbered opening has an image of the world seen through an increasingly dense veil of cut paper. Issued in a silk-covered box (33 x 22 cm.) with magnetized closure.” – Colophon.

The Claremont Colleges, Denison Library Rare Bookroom Folio
N7433.4.C44 V44 2002

2. **Kojiki : The Story of Ancient Japan (2018)**

Kazumi Wilds

Artists' books (books), Letterpress printing

Limited edition of 6 copies.

Denison Library copy is no.4 and signed by the artist.

The **Kojiki**, completed in 712 C.E., is **Japan's** oldest surviving written work. It covers the mythology and establishment of the nation of **Japan**. The **Kojiki** is not only an invaluable historical source and entertaining compilation of Japanese mythology, it is also the cornerstone of the Japanese indigenous Shinto religion, its gods and rituals....Completed by Kazumi Wilds at the University of Iowa Center for the Book in April 2018. Text and images are printed on handmade papers made by the artist using flax, cotton and Japanese kozo fibers. Areas of selected images were dyed with indigo, black beans, logwood, hibiscus and iron. The images were letterpress printed using linoleum, polymer, and other relief methods.....The cover-cloth was dyed with indigo, using the Japanese katazome technique to reveal the title. The book is bound in a drum-leaf binding"—Colophon

The Claremont Colleges, Denison Library Rare Bookroom Folio
N7433.4.W52774 K655 2018

3. **Cat's Cradle (2013)**

Julie Chen

Carousel books, Artists' books (books)

Limited edition of 50 copies.

Denison Library copy is no.31, signed and numbered by the artist.

“**Cat's Cradle** translates thoughts about the nature of existence from idea to form by employing the book structure itself as a visual/physical model of concepts portrayed in the text. Digitally printed on Mohawk Superfine and includes laser cut elements. Carousel structure: 5 spreads, each with 3 layers of overlapping concertina folds with sections cut out to create a 3-dimensional scene. Magnet and tie closures"--Vamp & Tramp website.

The Claremont Colleges, Denison Library Rare Bookroom
N7433.4.C53 C37 2013

4. **Bamei (2015)**

Colette Fu (Book artist)(Photographer)(Paper engineer.)

1 volume (unpaged): all color illustrations; 44 x 64 x 15cm when opened

Pop-up books; Artists' books

Edition of 10 copies
From the *We are Tiger Dragon People* series

"Bamei means 'cave in the forest' in Zhuang language. Tao Yuanming, the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420) poet, wrote of an isolated Peach Blossom Valley where people lived a simple pastoral life. For centuries, Chinese people merely regarded this valley as imaginary. To the Chinese, the peach blossom symbolizes luck, love and longevity, and to some - immortality"--Artist's description.

The Claremont Colleges, Special Collections Rare Books Collection Large Folio
N7433.4.F8 B36 2015

5. The Diary of a Sparrow (1999)

Kazuko Watanabe, Enji Watanabe
1 volume (unpaged): illustrations (some color); 20 x 24 cm
Artists' book, Accordion fold book
Limited edition of 125 copies.
Denison Library copy is no.124.

"The eight stories in my book are small excerpts from my grandfather's journals ... English translations hand-printed in letterpress alternate with computer manipulated and photo-etched images of the Japanese manuscript and with my multiple-plate color etchings, and the book is bound so parts can be unfolded and all can be stood up on a table like a small house ..." Page [7].

The Claremont Colleges, Denison Library Rare Book Room
PL864.T295 D53 1999

6. Remembering Japanese: P.S. Numbers (1994)

Seiko Tachibana
22 unnumbered leaves: color illustrations; 21 cm
Artists books; silkscreen prints
2nd edition. Denison Library copy is no.1 of 100 copies.

Issued in decorative portfolio. Printed on one side of a continuous strip, folded accordion style to make 22 leaves, and attached at the end to the decorative cover.

"This book was designed and printed on a handmade Japanese paper, of eleven silkscreen prints by Seiko Tachibana at SFAI printmaking studio in April, 1994. The Japanese characters are handwritten by the artist. The English words are typewritten. This proof was hand bound by the artist." -- Colophon

The Claremont Colleges, Denison Library Rare Bookroom
N7433.4.T33 T33 1994

7. Stratum (2019)

Written, designed, and bound by Jihae Kwon.
8 unnumbered leaves; 24 x 44 cm
Artists' book, cut-paper book, wood
Limited edition of 8 copies.
Denison Library copy is no.2, signed by the artist.

Inspired by Queen Lili'uokalani's song Ku'u Pua I Paoakalani, Stratum is about the importance of the land and its care depicted in brief, poignant phrases. —Colophon.

The Claremont Colleges, Denison Library Rare Bookroom Folio
N7433.4.K89 S87 2019

8. It Is Bitter to Leave Your Home: a True Story Depicted in Typographic Images (2017)

Romano Hänni (Book artist)
1 volume (64 unnumbered double leaves): color illustrations; 27 cm + 1 volume
Limited edition of 87 copies.
Denison Library copy is no.38/87, signed by the artist.

"The book concerns the disaster at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant that occurred on March 11, 2011, and the ongoing impact of radioactive contamination.....Letterpress printed on paper towels. Materials used: lead characters, synthetics and wood, brass lines and geometrical signs. ... Bound by hand with thread."--Vamp and Tramp website

Issued in a slipcase. The page format was determined by the paper: Paper towels, maxi roll; composition: 100% oxygen-bleached pulp (54 g/m²), wet strength additives, agents; roll length: 62.1 m, sheet size: about 23 x 26 cm, paper from responsible sources, FSC® C017535. —Colophon.

The Claremont Colleges, Denison Library Rare Book Room
N7433.4.H367 I8 2017

9-10. From Basement to Godzilla (1999)

Godzilla Asian American Arts Network
1 portfolio (2 unnumbered sheets, 46 numbered): all illustrations; 29 cm.
Artists' books; exhibition catalogs

46 signed prints issued in stamped archival box
Edition of 250

"This commemorative, limited edition portfolio represents a moment in time in the continuing legacy of Asian American activism in the arts. It is designed to complement the installation From basement to Godzilla, part of the Urban Encounters exhibition, curated by Gregory Sholette at the New Museum of Contemporary Art, July 16-September 20, 1998"--Title page.

The Claremont Colleges, Honnold/Mudd Special Collections Rare Books Collection
Folio N7433.4.G6372 F7 1999

11. Changing Face, Saving Face (2017)

Josephine Ren
1 volume (unpaged) : chiefly color illustrations ; 23 cm
Edition of 15 copies.
Asian Library copy is no.10 of 15.

"Designed, printed, and bound by Josephine Ren at the Scripps College Press for Art135: Typography and Book Arts, Fall 2017, taught by Tia Blassingame. Accordion fold, Garamond, linoleum-cut blocks, BFK Rives & Hahnemueler paper. Vandercook"--Colophon

The Claremont Colleges, Asian Library Special Collections
E184.C5 R46 2017

12. Asian American? Project (2007)

Irene Chan (Artist); Ch'An Press(Publisher)
1 case (35 cards): color illustrations; 53 x 92 mm
Artists books, specimens

An open edition artist book. Contains 35 loose and unnumbered cards with text that respond to comments and questions that strangers frequently ask Asian Americans. The cards may be flashed or handed out as needed in response to these questions. The project reveals persistent racial stereotypes about Asian Americans.

The Claremont Colleges, Honnold/Mudd Special Collections, Rare Books Collection
Miniature Z1023 .C528 2007

13. Black Lives Matter Paper Necklace (2020)

Irene Chan
2.54 x 3 cm (pendant), 49.5 cm (chain)

Specimens

“Black Lives Matter Paper Necklace’ is hand cut paper and is both a pendant and a book. You can write or draw behind the letters (hidden) or on the letters that will be seen and become part of the pendant. A metal chain and clasp included. The BLM is in black, yellow, and white”--Irene Chan, via bookseller's description.

The Claremont Colleges, Honnold/Mudd Special Collections Rare Books Collection
Miniature E185.615.C43 B53 2020

14-18. Jeong Portfolio Project (2021)

The Korean American Artist Collective (KAAC)

1 portfolio, 9”x11”x1”

A limited edition of 50. Denison Library copy.

17 works by 20 Korean American women artists, in response to the 2021 Atlanta shootings. Includes a 24-page booklet with curatorial essay, artist statements, biographies. Enclosed in a letterpress printed paper case and wrapped in Korea cotton wrapping cloth by Nossi Bojagi.

“Jeong is a distinctly Korean concept that is hard to define and translate; in essence, it encapsulates a strong sense of community, connection, and solidarity. As Korean Americans, this theme resonates with us now more than ever. We want to come together in solidarity to heal, to celebrate our roots, and to support fellow marginalized communities in the spirit of Jeong.” – From the Indiegogo website.

The Claremont Colleges, Denison Library Rare Book Room, to be cataloged.

19. Shipjangsaeng : 10 symbols of longevity (2017).

Designed by Lars Kim (Book artist.)

4 folded sheets (10 unnumbered pages) : color illustrations ; 10 x 10 cm

Artists' books; Accordion fold format (Binding)

Limited edition of 100. Denison Library copy.

"Shipjansaeng ... or 10 Symbols of Longevity was designed by Lars Kim/Solsken Design for the San Francisco Center for the Book, 2017. This book was typeset in Wolinsukbo by Yoon Design, Nanum Barun Gothic by Sandoll Communication/Fontrix and Haptik by Grilli Type. Letterpress and screen printed on Colorplan 91 lb. Text in Bright Red, Mist and Sapphire. The landscape scene was printed on hanji (Korean handmade paper) from Jangjibang paper mill in Gapyeong, Korea.” – Colophon

The ten symbols of longevity - rocks, water, clouds, sun, pine trees, turtles, deer, cranes, bamboo, and fungus - represent a ubiquitous theme in the Joseon-period (1392-1910) visual culture of Korea

The Claremont Colleges, Denison Library Rare Book Room, to be cataloged.

20-21. The Fortune Teller (2015)

Designed and digitally printed by Malini Gupta.

17 unnumbered leaves: color illustrations; 14 cm, in box (10 x 15 x 15 cm)

Artists' books; Specimens.

Limited edition of 10 copies.

Denison Library copy is no.10, signed by the artist.

"Through this work I seek to investigate the deeply entrenched gender biases that plague the Indian society. It is comprised of two parts: part one is the game of Fortune Teller; part two is my personal childhood story..... [It] is designed in beautiful patterns to entice the viewer to interact with it but also to camouflage the darkness it holds--the darkness of a child being sexually abused and a family choosing to ignore it" --Artist's Statement at the Vamp & Tramp website.

"The book was bound using the Japanese stab binding method. The paper used was Sandstone. It was waxed to infuse it with the smell of incense"--Colophon.

The Claremont Colleges, Denison Library Rare Book Room

N7433.4.G87 F67 2015

22. Nepali Special (2011)

Misaki Kawai

From *Japanese Women's Contemporary Artist Zines*, a Collection of 124 "zines", all created by young female Japanese artists.

The Claremont Colleges, Honnold/Mudd Special Collections Archive, H.Mss.1026

23-24. 1 [cent] Life (1964)

[written by Walasse Ting; edited by Sam Francis].

[2], 170, [4] pages: illustrations (chiefly color); 41 x 29 cm

Artists' illustrated book; color lithographs.

Limited edition of 1,000 copies. Honnold/Mudd Special Collections copy is no. 817, signed by the author, the editor, and the publisher.

“1 Cent Life” was a landmark publication of 1964, and is now a rare book based on the impressive artwork it contains. It was a revolutionary tract for a collective aesthetic; an assembled vision of Pop and European abstraction, featuring flat hard-edged drawing and splatter painting, biomorphic art, splashing florescent colors and monochromes all meeting up in a single loud and dynamic package..... The idea was born from global experience, close contact with culture, pseudo-culture, primitive existential worries, urban erotic and eastern wisdom. It was a Herculean task, for which only a Chinese would have been able to muster the perseverance. – From the BookBeat website.

The Claremont Colleges, Honnold/Mudd Special Collections Rare Books Collection
Folio PS3570.I5 O5 1964

25. “Bhutan Blue”

From Stephen Verona, *Rites, Rituals, Ruminations: Faces That Speak (2008)*, 25 framed panels of digitally reproduced portraits documenting the history of a wide range of cultures, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds

Limited edition of 200 copies. Denison Library copy is no.37, signed by the artist.

The Claremont Colleges, Denison Library Rare Bookroom Folio
N7433.4.V47 R58 2008