Virginia Center for the Book
Book Arts Program
2019 Annual Member’s Project: Collaboration Ideas

**TITLE:** “20-20 Revision” or “Hindsight Is 20/20”
- **TOPIC:** sharing our visions/revision of recent historical moments
- **INSPIRATION:** From the aphorism, "Hindsight is 20/20"; from the vintage eye chart used to test vision; and in anticipation of the upcoming year
- **CONCEPT:** In the upcoming year, 2020, will we see things differently? Will our vision of self, family, community, nation, society, world, planet...change? Will it blur or sharpen, or will we lose sight of it altogether?
- **SKILLS:** typography and typesetting, visual design play, printing and print-making

**TITLE:** RSVP
- **TOPIC:** storied invitations and announcements, actual or fictive (variation: imaginary state dinner menus)
- **INSPIRATION:** the untold stories behind formal printed ephemera
- **CONCEPT:** Compose text and images to contextualize an otherwise ordinary printed invitation or announcement (or menu). The occasion can be real or imagined, and not necessarily celebratory – an anniversary, birth, retirement, funeral, reunion, fundraiser, whatever. The invitations, printed as small broadsides, can be bound together in an envelope book.
- **SKILLS:** hand-printed images and text, all techniques; a new, simple binding structure (envelope book)

**TITLE:** ©-Free Poetry
- **TOPIC:** reprinting formerly copyright-protected poetry
- **INSPIRATION:** free access to notable poetry and lyrics that have entered the public domain during this year’s mass expiration of copyrights (e.g., poetry or lyrics by Robert Frost, Willa Cather, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Kahlil Gibran, e.e. cummings, Jelly Roll Morton and others)
- **CONCEPT:** portfolio of poetry broadsides containing favorite work recently released from copyright protection
- **SKILLS:** typography and typesetting, design, printmaking, portfolio making

**TITLE:** Data driven [not the best title, just a starting point]
- **TOPIC:** Unique approaches to making charts, graphs and infographics of things that are not typically seen as "data"
- **INSPIRATION:** Graphs that aren't your typical bar or line graphs of things like states of mind and daily minutia that aren't really scientific or research-based data. Examples:
  Work of Andrew Kuo in NYTimes
• **CONCEPT:** There is a growing trend in business, education, and other fields for "data-driven" decision making, data analytics, and big data. This project could comment on these and other trends in various ways, such as:
  - Presenting "data" about something that's not measurable in any objective way
  - Using eye-catching design to make a point seem important
  - Obscuring actual data through design or inventing data to support one's own ends

• **SKILLS:** Typography and typesetting, visual design, printing and print-making

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**TITLE:** Encoded [not the best title, just a starting point]

• **TOPIC:** A book of codes, with their solutions in a separate section in the back. Codes could be broadly interpreted to include letter substitution, symbols, things hidden in plain sight, iconography (as in religious paintings), hand signals, or anything else that could be considered a code.

• **INSPIRATION:** Creating ways to hide messages is an ancient art with contemporary resonance in discussions of spying, computer coding,

• **CONCEPT:** In addition to being visually beautiful, a book of codes could fun if people want to try to crack the codes.

• **SKILLS:** Typography and typesetting, visual design, printing and print-making

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**TITLE:** Maps of the Word

**TOPIC:** Maps that are renderings of concepts related to letters, word, type. Or maps of imaginary places.

**INSPIRATION:** A bound atlas of maps or collection of broadsides would produce some beautiful work for auction.

**CONCEPT:** There have been many, many maps of imaginary places, and we would have to distinguish ours in some way. We might interpret this broadly to include maps of states of minds and other abstract concepts that are not really places. Or we could put a frame on it that maps should relate in some way to letters, printing, words, history of type, like Bonnie's example.

**SKILLS:** Typography and typesetting, visual design, printing and print-making
An ex voto in which Senor Jose and his son Daniel are giving “infinite thanks” to the Virgin de Guadaloupe for using her powers to help them cross the Arizona desert and complete their American dream – to find work and earn money to help their families get ahead in Mexico.
50th wedding anniversary engraved invitation contextualized with an original aquatint and etching