Virginia Humanities
2022 Book Arts Annual Meeting
April 10, 2022

The meeting convened at 3:15 with 19 members attending.

Financial Report

VH COO and member Kevin McFadden presented a five-year review shared on December 2021 with the VH Board. The report shows that on average, the Book Arts Program generates $44K in earned income from classes, sales, and membership each year.

Kevin pointed out that the Program benefits from VH stewardship. VH provides technical assistance, fundraising and promotion, allowing Book Arts members to focus on their art. Additional funding comes to the Book Arts Program through foundation grants made to the VH.

As an example, Kevin announced that a $30K grant from the Cornell Foundation is being used to fund architectural improvements in the Book Arts Center’s press and classrooms.

Updates on VH Center for the Book/Book Arts projects

- **Voice-Overs** broadsides. VH intern Viana Martinez is arranging exhibition locations around Virginia.
- **Quaranta.** 40 creative works made during the pandemic are being selected for exhibition. Members can submit work online.
- **Recipe Cards**, a joint project of the Center the VH Folklife program is still in development. Book Arts members will be invited to participate.
- **UVA Creative Writing Program** students will print covers for the chapbooks they publish in fall 2022 under the direction of Professor Brian Teare.
- **Press Maintenance**, Paul Moxon will be at the Center during the week of May 16 to repair Vandercook adjustable beds. Repair will allow for printing of European high type donated by Lyall Harris.

The 2022 Riccio Residency

Puerto Rican poet, book artist, and publisher Nicole Delgado was named the 2022 Riccio Artist in Residence in March, when the Center was presented with an unanticipated opportunity to engage the multifaceted book maker during a visit to UVA. She gave bilingual poetry readings, a bookmaking workshop at a local high school, and a Book Arts talk at VH. Over the course of her residency, Nicole will be working in Puerto Rico on a book of poetry exploring “contested waters,” returning to the Center to complete her project next fall.
The Riccio Residency is being underwritten this year by VH while the endowment continues to build. Meanwhile, a VCB committee comprised of Book Arts members and staff will develop an application process and guidelines for future residencies.

**Upcoming Programming**

Program Director Garrett McQueen gave an overview of the classes that will be offered throughout 2022, as the center’s programs gear up again. His goal is to schedule two instructional classes per month, with additional programs and presentations. Information about upcoming classes and registration is posted on the Center website.

Garrett reported that VH allocated $20K in “spend-down funds, which have been used buying six portable presses suitable for K-12 programs, the purchase of a video system that will allow an overhead camera during teaching, and for acquisition of additional printing/binding materials.

**Approval of Coordinating Committee Members for 2022**

The slate of members for the coordinating committee, an advisory group to the Book Arts program, was presented to the group and was approved by voice vote. The 2022 members are:

- Kristin Adolfson
- Bonnie Bernstein
- Addeane Caelleigh
- Janet Eden
- Erica Goldfarb
- Nancy Kober
- Lana Lambert

VH Staff (not on committee)
- Kevin McFadden
- Garrett Queen
- Aran Donovan

**Membership**

Current membership is 45-50 members but not all have renewed. Many memberships lapsed during the pandemic, when the Center was closed for in-person activities.

Kristin Adolfson, a member of the Coordinating Committee, reported that a subcommittee is considering whether to offer additional membership categories and will make its recommendations to the Coordinating Committee soon.

**Saints Alive! Collaborative Project**

Bonnie Bernstein reported on this year’s annual member collaboration. Participants will each create a 7”x10” storied print (image and narrative) to express gratitude for whoever/whatever helped them to cope during the pandemic or some other difficult time. The prints will be enclosed in retablos, structures designed to resemble traditional Peruvian altar boxes.
The “soft” deadline for completed prints is June 17, followed by workshops to produce the retablo enclosures on June 25-26. Guidelines are posted on the project page. Bonnie noted that the number of participants is uncertain and encouraged interested members to join the project now.

**Book Arts Online**

Josef Beery noted the widespread activity in book arts through social media across the US and internationally. He pointed to Partners in Print (PiP), Letterpress Educators And Design (LEAD), the American Printing History Association and its peer-reviewed journal, and others. Jane Freeman noted the classes and extensive collaborative projects by San Diego Book Arts and by Santa Fe Book Arts. Bonnie requested that members email her links to these organizations and other resources for posting on the Book Arts website.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15. A potluck meal was served afterward.