

the california effect



New Books from the
California Chapter of
the Guild of Book Workers

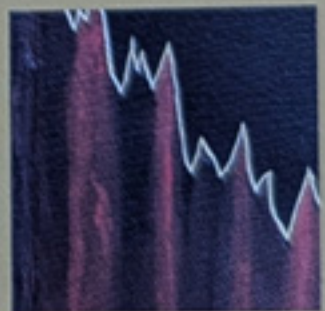
October 4, 2025 – March 8, 2026

Long Beach Museum of Art



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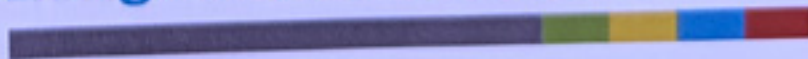
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October 4, 2025 – March 8, 2026

Long Beach Museum of Art
2300 East Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, California

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Foreword



We are proud to present *The California Effect — New Books from the California Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers* during this 75th Anniversary Year of the Long Beach Museum of Art. The Museum has always presented contemporary art in all media including the book arts throughout its history. *At Home* in 1983 included *Artists' Books by Women — Diaries, Notebooks, Journals, 1970-83*, and in 2019 the Museum presented *The Artful Book* exhibition of the California Chapter of the Guild. It is a pleasure to once again explore this dynamic contemporary art form in *The California Effect*.

There are many opportunities for the public — adults and families — to explore the exhibition with the artists and learn more in tours and workshops, and from Johanna Drucker in her keynote address in December. Students and faculty can engage with the vibrant book art community during this exhibition. In addition, tours and workshops for teachers as well as students in the Museum's KidVisions program for all fifth grades in the Long Beach Unified School District are part of the exhibition schedule during October through the end of the exhibition. The great variety of media and meanings inherent in these works of art are inspiring. The diversity in the book arts includes media and structures and connects realms of expression across literature, poetry, painting, sculpture, printmaking, fine binding, letterpress, collage, and much, much more!

The Museum is grateful for the support from lead sponsor The Kenneth T. And Eileen L. Norris Foundation, and from the Bess J. Hodges Foundation and the Pasadena Art Alliance for their support of the exhibition and related programming including a video that reveals the interiors of the books. Our thanks, too, to the California Chapter for their support, and especially Carolee Campbell for the introduction in this catalogue and Rebecca Chamlee for the production of the catalogue. The staff of the Museum has been crucial in realizing the exhibition especially Susie Marquez, Registrar and Collection Manager, and Curatorial Assistant Cami Keller, Lead Preparator Steve Schmidt and the installation crew, Education Manager Chloe Landis, as well as Curator *Emerita* Sue Ann Robinson and Iris Quiroz, Director of Institutional Advancement. Most of all, we are grateful for the participation of the California Chapter Guild of Book Worker members who have expanded our imaginations. This is an exciting visual arts exhibition that challenges us all to think outside the box!

Ronald C. Nelson
Executive Director
Long Beach Museum of Art



The California Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers is delighted to present *The California Effect*, a members' exhibition of books, boxes, and broadsides on display at the Long Beach Museum of Art from October 4, 2025 to March 8, 2026. With over 100 members hailing from many parts of California and beyond, the California Chapter is just one of ten active chapters, revealing the national reach and scope of the Guild of Book Workers and its dedication to promoting interest and awareness in the tradition of book and paper arts. The members include hand bookbinders, conservators, calligraphers, makers of artists books, fine press printers, and papermakers, both professional and amateur.

The California Effect is the California Chapter's fourth major members' exhibition. The first exhibition, *Look, A Book!*, was presented at the Special Collections Library at the University of California, San Diego in 2016. The second exhibition, *The Artful Book*, was held at the Long Beach Museum of Art in 2019. The third exhibition, *Book Art Artifact*, was shown at The San Francisco Center for the Book's exhibition gallery in 2022. With the opening of *The California Effect* at the Long Beach Museum of Art for a second time on October 4, 2025, the museum has shown its continued commitment to major exhibitions of books as works of art. The California Chapter is grateful for the ongoing support of the Kenneth T. & Eileen Norris Foundation, the Bess J. Hodges Foundation, as well as the Pasadena Art Alliance.

What exactly is the California effect? More precisely, what is that effect on the many of us who live and work here? The misty mornings and baking hot afternoons? The endless coastline, chill forests or dry desert arroyos? Each of us has an answer, seen in the books we make, in our tastes and proclivities. We turn to making books: printing them, binding them, reinventing them, turning them into art — making books as art.

The California Effect is rich in both exhibitors and bookworks. There are 29 artists showing 54 books, boxes, and broadsides. Some are in limited editions while others are one-of-a-kind. All are handmade individually with fine & handmade papers, cloth, thread, glue, inks, brushes. The Guild of Book Workers California Chapter is proud to present this elegant expression of craftsmanship by its exhibiting members.

This exhibition is dedicated to the memory of Patricia Owen.

Carolee Campbell

California Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers, Exhibition Chair

Debra Disman

Artist Book

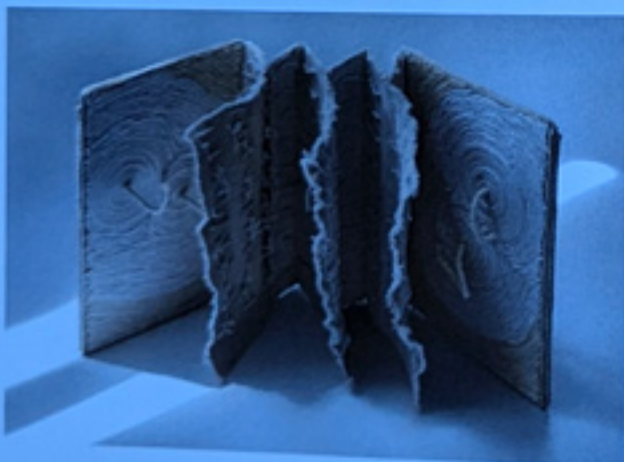
TITLE: *The Body Politic: Like White on White*, 2024

The Body Politic: Like White on White is a unique artists' book which functions as a sculpture, made of book board, paint, canvas, cord and trim. Expressing the body in an abstract way, its subtly shifting hues of "white" ask us to calmly contemplate and consider the term.

MATERIALS: Book board, paint, canvas, hemp/assorted cord, trim

DIMENSIONS: 9 x 16 x 7 inches

EDITION: One-of-a-kind



Artist Book

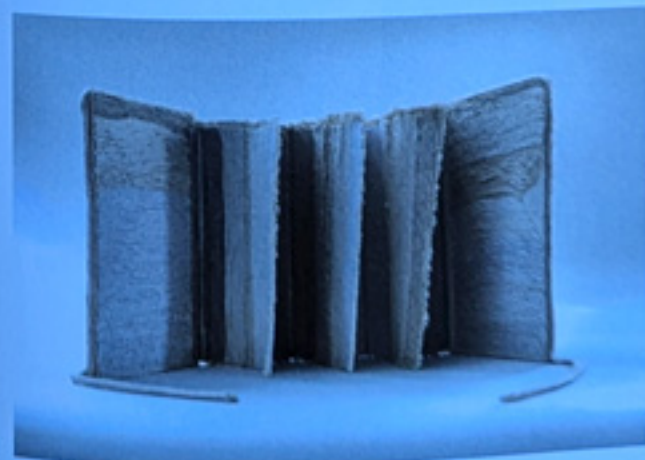
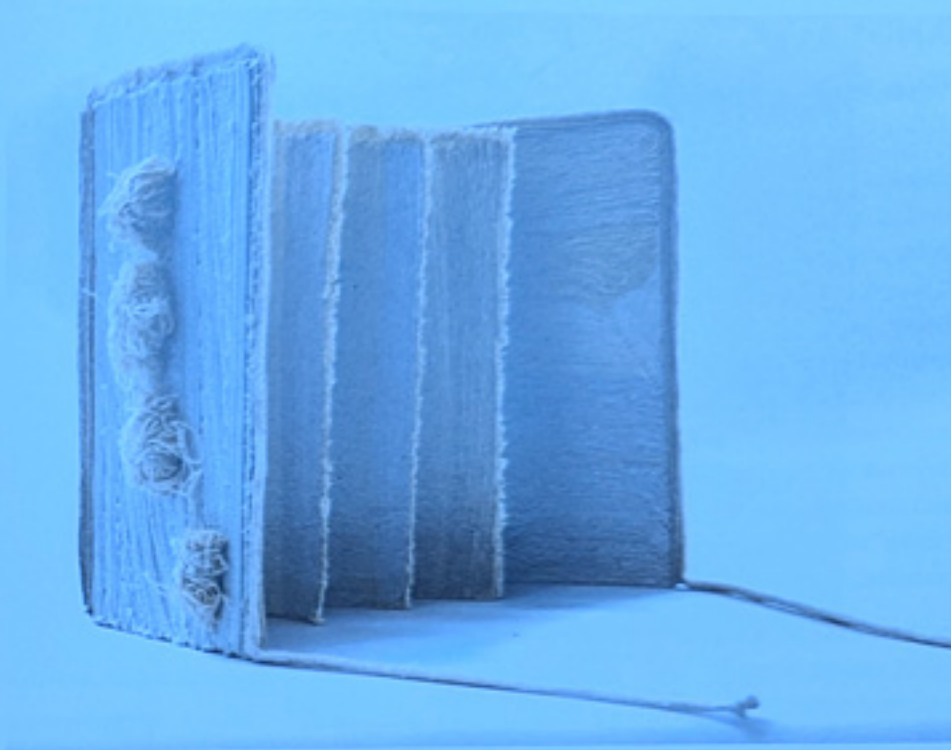
TITLE: *The Body Politic: White and... (I)*, 2024

The Body Politic: White and... (I) is a unique artists' book which functions as a sculpture, made of book board, paint, canvas, cord and trim. Expressing the body in an abstract way, its subtly shifting hues of "white" ask us to calmly contemplate and consider the term while engaging with textures.

MATERIALS: Book board, paint, canvas, hemp/assorted cord, trim

DIMENSIONS: 9 x 19 x 6 inches

EDITION: One-of-a-kind



Artist Book

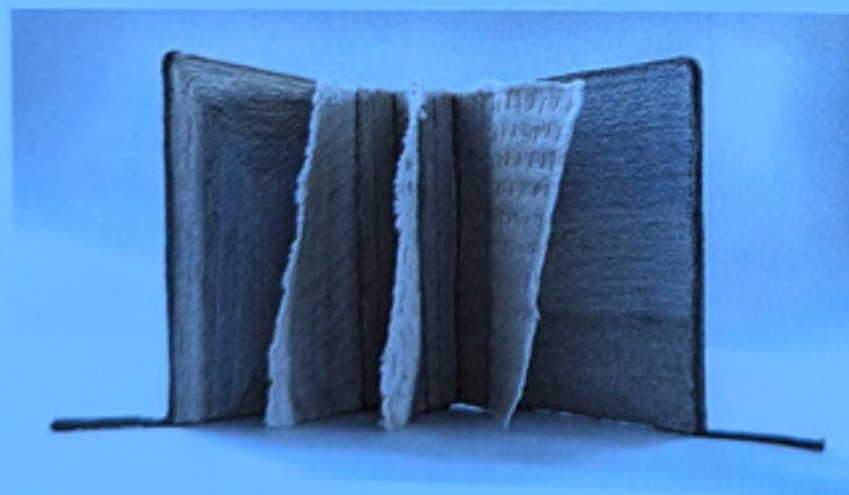
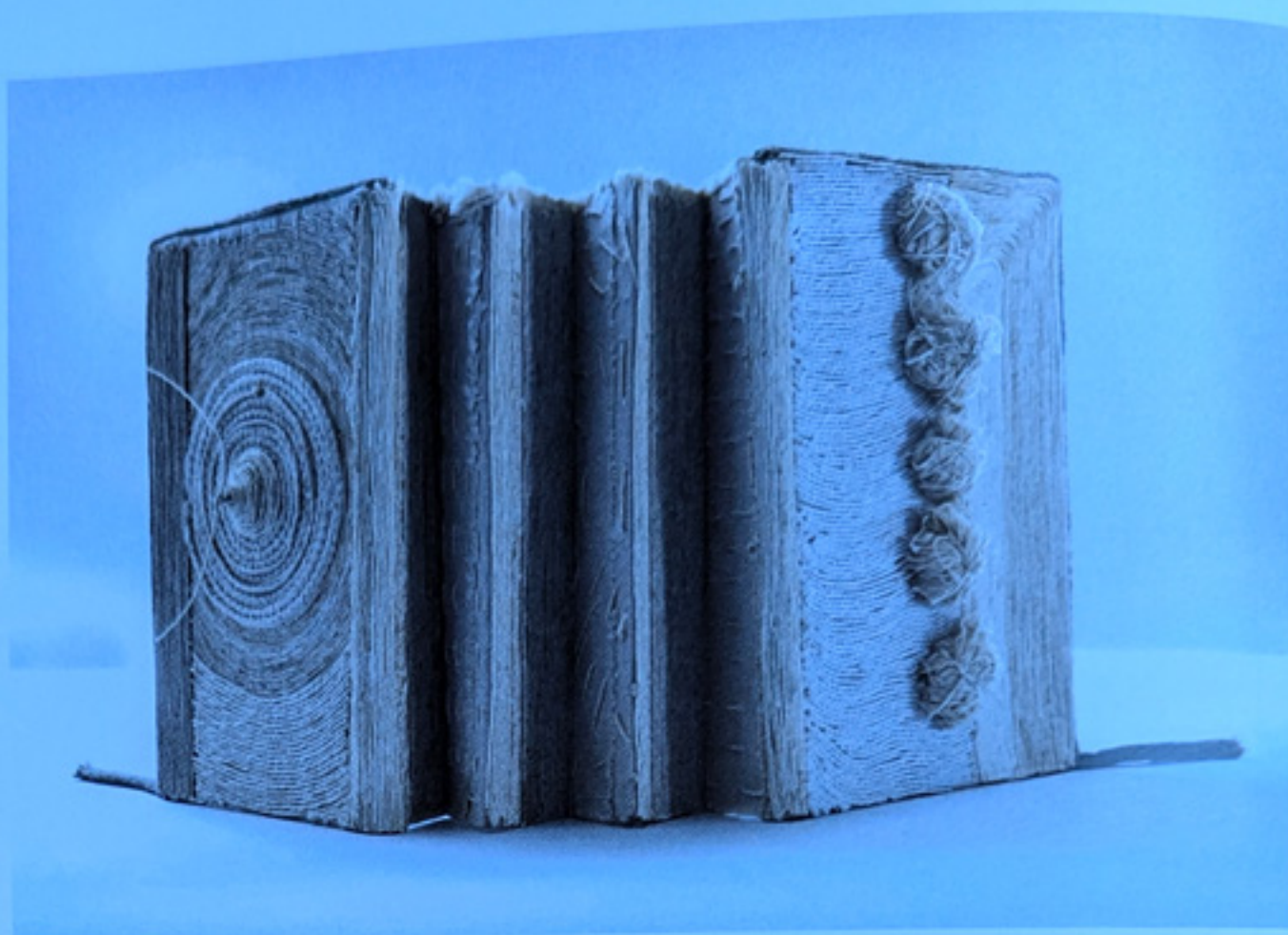
TITLE: *The Body Politic: White and...II*, 2024

The Body Politic: White and...II is a unique artists' book which functions as a sculpture, made of book board, paint, canvas, cord & trim. Expressing the body in an abstract way, its subtly shifting tones and hues ask us to contemplate and consider the term "white" while engaging with textures.

MATERIALS: Book board, paint, canvas, hemp / assorted cord

DIMENSIONS: 9 x 16 x 6 inches

EDITION: One-of-a-kind



DEBRA DISMAN works in the book form both as solo practitioner and in the public sphere of community engagement, investigating states of being and connectiveness through intensive interactions with materials while attempting to fully explore their haptic properties. She has been a Studio Resident at the Camera Obscura Art Lab, a Santa Monica Artist Fellow (2021-22) and is currently an Artist-in-Residence with the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and at 18th Street Arts Center.

