

Karen M. Wirth
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SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Anticipated solo retrospective, Open Book and Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Minneapolis MN
- 2023 *Banned*, Traffic Zone Center for Visual Art, Minneapolis MN
- 2022 *46: Books from Franklin Furnace Archive, 1976-2022*, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn NY
- 2020 *Double Shift*, MCAD Gallery, Minneapolis MN
- 2018 *Geo Stories* solo exhibition, Boliou Gallery, Carleton College, Northfield MN
- 2017 *What I Think About: Fossil Record*, Nash Gallery, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN
- 2016 *Metropolis & Invisible Cities: Interpretations on Urbanity*, Constellation Gallery, Lincoln NE
- 2014 *Contained Narrative*, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Minneapolis MN
- 2014 *Bound and Beyond: Structure in Book Art*, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee WI
- 2014 *Found Objects*, Form+Content Gallery, Minneapolis MN
- 2014 *Print, Produce, Publish*, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah, Salt Lake City UT
- 2014 *Cornered: Folded Form*, University of Utah Rare Book Collection
- 2013 *The Illustrated Accordion*, Kalamazoo Book Arts Center, Kalamazoo MI
- 2012 *Intersections, Nothing Staid*, collaborative work with MCAD Alum Isa Gagarin, MCAD Gallery
- 2012 *Infinite Possibilities: Math, Science, Book Arts*, Sandy Gallery, Seattle WA
- 2010 *Sculptural Books: Memory and Desire*, U of Arizona Museum of Art, Tucson AZ
- 2009 *Art of the Fold*, Lawton Gallery, UW Green Bay WI
- 2008 *WorkBooks*, Katherine Nash Gallery, Minneapolis MN
- 2006 *Type, Paper, Scissors: The Book as Art Environment*, Inova/Institute of Visual Arts, Milwaukee WI
- 2004 *No Reading Required*, Walker Without Walls, Walker Art Center at MCBA, Minneapolis MN
- 2004 *The Book Unbound*, Durango Art Center, Durango CO
- 2003 *Love and/or Terror*, University of Arizona Art Museum, Tucson AZ
- 2002 *McKnight Interdisciplinary Fellowship Exhibition*, Installation with sound, Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis MN
- 2000 *In My Library*, Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee WI
- 1999 *IF not THIS*, Walker Art Center, Art Lab, Architectural/video/book installation, Minneapolis MN
- 1998 *Bookatecture: Books and Architecture*, Astra Design Gallery, Richmond VA
- 1997 *Material/Immaterial*, slide projection/installation, Soap Factory, Minneapolis MN
- 1997 *Building Books*, Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson WI
- 1996 *Building by the Book*, Architectural/book installation, Katherine Nash Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
- 1996 *From Cover to Cover: Transformation of the Book*, Iowa State University, Ames Iowa
- 1996 *The Reading Room*, ARC, Chicago IL. Curated by Buzz Spector
- 1995 *Science and Artists' Books*, Smithsonian Institution, Museum of American History, Washington D.C.
- 1995 *A User's Guide to Genetic Gardening*, Video installation, C.A.G.E., Cincinnati OH
- 1994 *The Book Unbound*, Ormand Memorial Art Museum, Ormand Beach FL
- 1993 *Tending to Code*, video Installation, Pyramid Atlantic, Washington, D.C.
- 1993 *Building the Contemporary Book: Architecture and the Book*, M.C.B.A., Minneapolis MN
- 1993 *Book Ends and Odd Books*, The Banff Centre for the Arts, Banff, Alberta, Canada
- 1992 *Under Cover: The Book Becomes Art*, Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Scottsdale AZ
- 1991 *Boundless Vision*, San Antonio Art Institute, San Antonio TX
- 1991 *Un Libro Mas* exhibition, Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil, Mexico City MX
- 1990 *Book Arts in the U.S.A.*, Center for Book Arts New York, traveling exhibition to Africa, South America
- 1990 *A Handful of Eternal Verities*, Architecture/book installation, Katherine Nash Gallery, Minneapolis MN
- 1989 *Volumes*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, M.A.E.P. Gallery, Minneapolis MN
- 1988 *Context Clues*, University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menominee WI
- 1987 *Homage to Fluxus*, Luc Fierens, Hombeek, Belgium
- 1986 *All-California '86*, Laguna Art Museum, CA

PUBLIC ART AND ARCHITECTURE PROJECTS

- 2017 *Open Book* bookstore marquee, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport
 2008 *Situations*, Architectural Intervention #1, Minnesota Center for Book Arts
 2006 *Summerhouse Library*, for MN Landscape Arboretum *Secret Gardens*, with Chad Rutter and Laura Fulk
 2005 *Siteworks: Skyway*, Project manager for Skyway mural project for Carmichael Lynch/MCAD
 2004 *Minnehaha Park/50th Street Station Canopy* artwork, photo glasswork, Minneapolis MN
 2001-03 *Hiawatha Light Rail Public Art Program*, Artist Liaison to Design/Build Contractor TDKA Associates
 2001 *Hiawatha Project, Light Rail Station Concept Design* Warehouse District with ESG Architects, Minneapolis MN
 2000 *Hiawatha Project, Light Rail Station Concept Design* 38th St., 46th St., Minnehaha Park with MSR Architects, Minneapolis MN
 2000-01 *Open Book Center Gail See Staircase* design, fabrication and installation, with architect Garth Rockcastle, Minneapolis MN
 2000 *The Memory Project*, Orpheum Theater, St. Paul, MN. Photo, sculpture installation
 1987 *Projections in Public: Los Angeles*, Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art
 1987 *Projections in Public: San Diego*, Installation Gallery/Projected Light Collective
 1987 Stuart Foundation, Terry Allen's *Trees*, site-specific sound sculpture, La Jolla CA
 1986-87 Newton Harrison and Helen Mayer Harrison, *The Lagoon Cycle*, La Jolla CA

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

- 2023 *Arctic Circle Residency*, Svalbard and Arctic Ocean, 3-week sailing the Arctic Ocean
 2023 Halden Bookworks, 3-week residency, Tistedal, Norway
 2017 Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan, County Clare Ireland, 1-month residency
 2005 Eastern Frontier Foundation Norton Island, Maine, 1-month residency
 2002 American Academy in Rome, Visiting Artist 1-month residency
 1991 Visual Studies Workshop, Rochester, NY 2-month residency

PUBLISHED EDITIONED ARTIST'S BOOKS

- 2017 *Paper Architecture*, offset printed, large scale edition, published by JAB Journal of Artists' Books, Chicago IL
 2006 *Artists' Field Guides to Art in Nature*, inkjet edition 100, with MCAD students Laura Fulk and Chad Rutter
 2003 *Questions on Empty Space*, pigment ink jet edition 7
 1995 *Viewpoints*, photo silkscreen edition 20, funding through MN State Arts Board Career Opportunity Grant
 1991 *Spatial Geometries*, offset edition 800, funded by NY State Council for the Arts and Visual Studies Workshop Press
 1991 *Continental Drifting*, offset edition of 650; funding through Jerome Foundation and M.C.B.A.
 1990 *Nude Youths*, photocopier book, first printing of 585; second printing 500
 1989 *How to Make an Antique*, offset edition of 500; funding through Jerome Foundation and M.C.B.A.

CURATING

- 2017 *CVA Action: RISE*, Concordia University H. Williams Gallery, St. Paul MN
 2011 *Intersections: Women, Power, and the Art of Collaboration*, MCAD Main Gallery
 2008 *Idea Factory/Work Book*, Katherine Nash Gallery, Minneapolis MN, co-curator
 2007 *Clints, Grikes, Turloughs: Work from the Burren*, MCAD Concourse Gallery
 2004 *Five College Exhibition*, North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks ND, sole juror
 2000-03 Open Book Exhibitions, Minneapolis MN, curator for 6 lobby exhibitions per year
 1998 *Story:Telling National Exhibition*, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Minneapolis MN, co-curator
 1997 *Modular Body*, College of Visual Arts, St. Paul MN, curator and catalog essay
 1996 *Art and Science: Creative Solutions*, College of Visual Arts, St. Paul MN, curator and catalog essay
 1990 *Copier Books*, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Minneapolis, MN, co-curator and catalog essay
 1988 *Picture Dictionary*, University of Minnesota Studio Arts Gallery, curator and catalog
 1986 *Artists' Books and Book Constructions*, U.C.S.D. Central Library, La Jolla, CA, curator,

GRANTS / FELLOWSHIPS / AWARDS

- 2010-11 American Council on Education Leadership Fellowship, placement at The New School/Parsons, New York
- 2010-11 Bush Foundation Leadership Fellowship
- 2008 Faculty Opportunity Grant, Minneapolis College of Art and Design
- 2002 American Academy in Rome, Visiting Artist Residency
- 2002 Minnesota State Arts Board Visual Arts Fellowship
- 2022 American Institute of Architects Minnesota Honor Award for Open Book Staircase design
- 2001 Jerome Visual Arts Travel and Study Grant
- 2001 McKnight / Intermedia Arts Interdisciplinary Fellowship
- 2001 Adaptive Reuse Preservation Award, Minneapolis Historic Preservation Commission
- 2001 CUE Award, City of Minneapolis Committee on Urban Environment
- 1995 Career Opportunity Grant, Minnesota State Arts Board
- 1992 Jerome Visual Arts Travel and Study Grant
- 1992 N.E.A. Regional Visual Arts Fellowship
- 1991 Bush Foundation Visual Arts Fellowship
- 1991 New York State Council on the Arts Artist-in-Residency Grant
- 1990 Career Opportunity Grant, Minnesota State Arts Board
- 1990, 1988 Jerome Foundation/M.C.B.A. Book Arts Fellowship

COLLECTIONS

- Arizona State University, Hayden Special Collections
- Bruce Peel Special Collections Library, University of Alberta, Canada
- El Arcivero Artists' Books Archives, Mexico City MX
- Getty Center for the History of Arts and Humanities, Los Angeles
- Museum of Modern Art PS1 Archive
- Phoenix Public Library, Percent for Arts Project, AZ
- RISD Special Collections
- Sackner Archive of Concrete and Visual Poetry, Florida
- School of the Art Institute Chicago, John M. Flaxman Library
- SUNY College at Brockport, Drake Memorial Library
- University of Oregon Libraries
- University of Utah Sat Lake City Rarer Book Collection
- University of Washington Library, Seattle, WA
- University of Wisconsin Madison, Kohler Art Library
- University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Golda Meir Library Special Collections
- Walker Art Center
- Wellesley Special Collections
- Yale University, Arts of the Book Collection, New Haven CT

SELECTED CITATIONS

- 2018 Star Tribune, April 10, 2018, For Transit Stations, Public Art Brings Both Beauty and Budgetary Concerns, Janet Moore
- 2012 Star Tribune, January 20, 2012, "Learning Curve", Mary Abbe
- 2009 *Conveying Meaning in a Non-Traditional Format*, October 2009, Shirley Greer, Watkins Institute of Technology, Ireland
- 2008 New York Times, April 30, 2008, "With Book as a Catalyst," Lisa Chamberlain
- 2006 World Architecture Fall 2006, "Adaptive Reuse of Old Buildings," published in English and Chinese
- 2005 *No Longer Innocent: Book Arts in America 1960-1980*, Betty Bright, Granary Books
- 2005 Architecture Minnesota Magazine, January/February 2005, interview
- 2005 Scape Magazine, Summer 2005, "Light Rail Design Process," by Regina Flanagan
- 2004 Planning: Special Issue on Transportation, May 2004, Sam Newberg
- 2003, 1984 *The Structure of the Visual Book*, Keith Smith. Visual Studies Workshop Press, Rochester NY

- 2002 Public Art Review, Vol. 13, #2, Issue 26, "The Transit Landscape, Rebecca Banyas,
 2002 *The Inspired Workspace: Designs for Creativity*, Marilyn Zelinsky. Rockport Publishers, ME
 2002 *Digital Book Design*, Douglas Hollely, Clarellen Press
 2002 Twin Cities Business Journal, Feb. 22, 2002. "Stations Connect City to Rail," Mark Reilly
 2001 City Pages, May 2, 2001. "Best Renovation," Best of the Twin Cities Issue
 2000 Architecture Minnesota Magazine, September 2000. "Literary Art/Interior Revisions," C. LeFevre
 1998 *Artists' Books: A Critical Survey of the Literature*, Stefan Klima. Granary Books, NY
 1995 *The Century of Artists' Books*, Johanna Drucker. Granary Books, NY
 1990 The Print Collector's Newsletter, Vol. XXI, #5, Nov 1990. "Artist's Book Beat," Nancy Princenthal

SELECTED PUBLISHED WRITING

- 2018 Editor, *The Artists' Book as Third Mind*, by Marianne Dages, For JAB #43, Spring 2018
 2015 Minnesota Center for Book Arts, essay for biannual Winter Book
 2012 Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Catalog essay "Intersections: Women, Leadership, Collaboration
 2011 *JAB Journal of Artists Books*, JAB 30, Fall 2011, "Nothing in Its Place: The Blank Page"
 2011 *CAA Online Reviews*, Spring 2011 Artist book review "Sanctus Sonorensis," by Philip Zimmerman"
 2009 *The Bonefolder*, Volume 6, No.1, Fall 2009, Walker Art Center exhibition review "Text Messages"
 2008 *Bound and Lettered Magazine*, Vol. 7, Number 2, 2008, essay "Work Book: Thinking and Making"
 2008 *Places Magazine*, June 2008 issue, essay "Displace/Discover"
 2008 *Friends of the Library Magazine*, UW Madison, Spring 2008 issue, essay "Show Your Work"
 2000 *JAB Journal of Artists Books- JAB 13, Spring*. "Blurred Boundaries"
 1999 Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Minneapolis MN, Exhibition essay, "Story:Telling,"
 1996 College of Visual Arts, St. Paul, MN, catalog essay "Art and Science: Creative Solutions"
 1995 Minnesota Center for Book Arts, publisher, "Talking the Boundless Book: Art, Language, & Book Arts"
 1991-94 Columnist for the Binnewater Tides, publisher Women's Studio Workshop, Rosendale, NY
 1990 Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Copier Books Exhibition catalog essay "Singular Multiples"

SELECTED INVITATIONAL LECTURES / PANELS

- 2023 Ettinger Book Artist Series, public lecture, UW-Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 2019 *Succession Planning for Seasoned Art and Design Administrators*, NASAD Conference, Pittsburgh PA
 2018 University of the Arts, Philadelphia PA, panel moderator *Collective Relevance: The Reciprocity of Art and Artifact*
 2017 Carleton College, Northfield MN, *Field Guides: Close observation*
 2017 Nash Gallery, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, *What I Think About: Fossil Record*
 2015 California College of Art, San Francisco CA, *Art + Science: Working with the Collection*
 2014 Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore MD, *New Paradigms: Teaching and Learning*
 2010 Alberta College of Art and Design, Canada, *Making Space*, lecture and workshop
 2010 College Book Art Association, Portland OR, panelist on *Pedagogical Practice in Book Arts Education*
 2009 Minnesota Center for Book Arts, *Book as Activist Symposium*, panelist for *Book as Object*
 2009 National Art Education Association, Annual Conference, *Art Making, Art Educating*
 2006 American Society of Landscape Architects, *Field Session at 50th Street Light Rail Station*
 2006 Minnesota Center for Book Arts, lecture *Collecting Books/Collecting Ideas*
 2004 Pyramid Atlantic, Washington, DC, *The Artist Book as an Intermedia Device* symposium lecture, *Context Clues*
 2002 Cornell Program in Rome, Italy, *Visiting Artist lecture*
 2002 NEH/Carleton College at Open Book, lecture *Why Book Arts?*
 2001 Camberwell College of Arts, London, England, Graduate Book Arts Program, *Visiting Artist lecture*
 2000 American Institute of Architects, Minneapolis, presentation *Light Rail for Urban Design*
 1999 Walker Art Center, Minneapolis MN, gallery talk *Ed Ruscha*
 1999 Book Arts 2000 Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL, panel *Towards the Future of the Book*
 1994 Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Minneapolis, MN, panel *Re-reading the Boundless Book: Theory and Criticism*
 1992 Walker Art Center, Minneapolis MN, lecture *Discipline-Based Art Education*
 1990 University of Minnesota, School of Architecture and Landscape Design, lecture *Books as Architectural Structure*

INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

- 2018 Central Academy of Fine Art, presenter Presidents' International Symposium on Higher Art Education, Beijing China
 2017 Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan, County Clare Ireland, 1-month residency
 2011 Central Academy of Fine Art, presenter Presidents' International Symposium on Foundation Art Ed, Beijing China
 2011 American Council on Education Site Visit Team to South Africa: HESA (Higher Education South Africa),
 UNISA (U South Africa), UCT (U Cape Town), UWC (U Western Cape), CPUT (Cape Peninsula Technology)
 2009 International Sculpture Symposium- exhibition and lecture, UMN Twin Cities, Invitational Korean, Chinese, American
 2007 Burren College of Art, lead faculty for MCAD Study Abroad, Spring semester
 2002 American Academy in Rome, Italy, Visiting Artist residency and lecture
 2002 Cornell Program in Rome, Italy, Visiting Artist lecturer
 2002 Three-week sabbatical research project on memorial sculpture, Berlin, Germany
 2001 Three-month sabbatical research project on history of books/artists' books, British Library, London, England
 2001 Camberwell College of Arts, London, England, Graduate Book Arts Program, Visiting Artist lecturer
 2000 Study Abroad, College of Visual Arts, designed and led study abroad program, Rome, Florence, Sienna Italy
 1999 Study Abroad, College of Visual Arts, designed and led the first study abroad program, London and Paris

EDUCATION

- 1987-1990 Master of Fine Arts, Sculpture**
 University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- 1984-1985 Coursework in Art Education, PhD Program**
 Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore MD
- 1971-1975 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art Education**
 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, magna cum laude, first in class

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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| 2020- present | Professor Emerita | Minneapolis College of Art and Design |
| 2018-2019 | Interim President | Minneapolis College of Art and Design |
| 2011- 2018, 2020 | Vice President of Academic Affairs | Minneapolis College of Art and Design |
| 2003- 2011 | Chair of Fine Arts | Minneapolis College of Art and Design |
| 2003- present | Professor Fine Arts | Minneapolis College of Art and Design |
| 1993-2003 | Academic Dean, Chair of Fine Arts, Professor | College of Visual Arts, St. Paul |
| 1990-1992 | Adjunct Faculty | University of Minnesota-Twin Cities |
| 1976-1990 | K-8 Art Teacher | Washington, D.C. and San Diego, CA |

BOARD SERVICE

- 2023-2024 Board Member, City Blocks Quilt Co-op, Minneapolis MN
 2018- 2020 Advisory Board Member, *Journal of Artists' Books*, publisher Columbia College Center for the Book
 2008 Founding Board Member, College Book Art Association
 2002- 05 Board of Trustees, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Minneapolis MN
 2002 MACAA Conference Steering Committee
 1997- 00 Artist Advisory Board, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Minneapolis MN