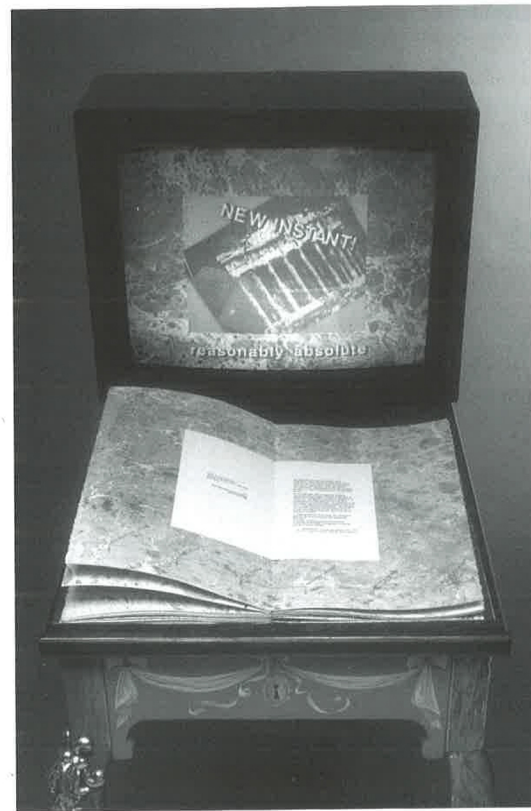


EXPANDED FOURTH EDITION

STRUCTURE OF THE VISUAL BOOK

Keith A. Smith

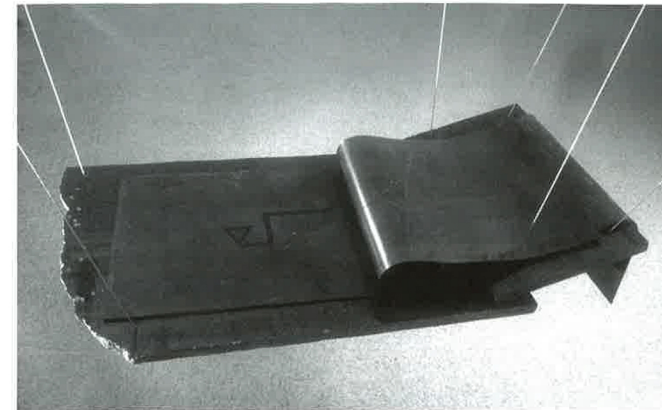
BOOK 95



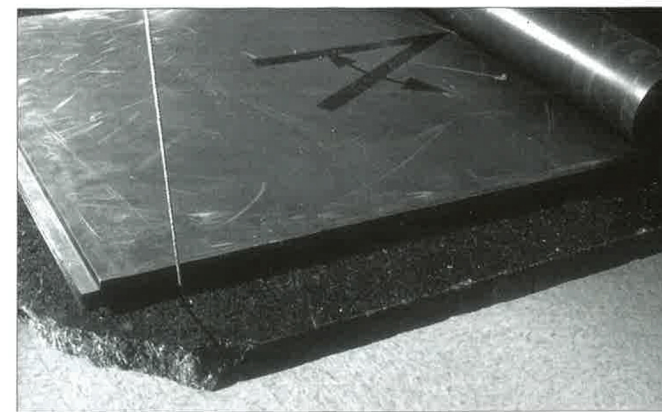
Karen Wirth and Robert Lawrence, *How To Make An Antique*, 1989. Detail. Hand marbled book pages with computer/laser print texts set in. Television monitor displays a three minute continuous loop program.



Karen Wirth and Robert Lawrence, *How To Make An Antique*, 1989. Every surface of the furniture is a different style. TV monitor is "antiqued" with simulated wood contact paper. 211 x 73.5 x 241 cm.



Above with detail below:
Karen Wirth, *All Other Things Being Equal: Balance, Level, Elevate*, 1996. 254 x 122 x 71 cm. Polished granite, Neoprene rubber, acrylic enamel, steel cable and fixtures.
"Viewer participatory sculptural book; as the viewer turns the heavy rubber pages, the book swings gently, emphasizing both the weight of the piece and the implied fragility of the installation. The text is comprised of international symbols that deal with both structural and conceptual integrity." —Karen Wirth

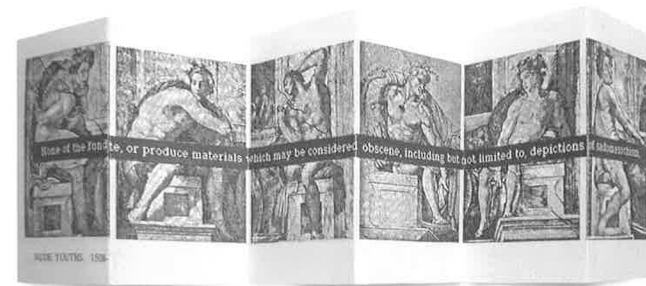


SOCIAL COMMENTARY

CENSORSHIP, CRIMES AND INDIGNATION

The artist sometimes uses books to speak out against injustices. The approach can be somber, though far from silent, as taken by Tana Kellner, page 356 and Ann Fessler, pages 358, 359. Others use satire as their sword—the book by Karen Wirth, below and Janet Zweig, page 357.

In Book 216, page 357, I use the voice of a child, a kind of bizarre children's book, to speak of the violence of priests against children. Rather than graphic depictions, seemingly innocent pictures speak on a symbolic level.



Karen Wirth, *Parental Advisory*, 1990. Edition of 585. 9 x 5.2 cm. Opens to 40 cm. This two-sided foldbook shows nude youths from the Sistine Chapel Ceiling (1508–1510). A black band crosses the center of pictures covering the crotches. It reads, "None of the funds authorized may be used to promote, disseminate, or produce materials which may be considered obscene, including but not limited to, depictions of sadomasochism, homo-eroticism, the sexual exploitation of children, or individuals engaged in sex acts and which, when taken as a whole, do not have a serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value."—the text of the Jesse Helms Amendment, Interior Department appropriations bill regarding NEA funding for fiscal year 1990. Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1990, Pub. L. 101-121, 103 Stat. 738, 738-742.