
WHY I LOVE BOOKS

ARTIST'S BOOKS

by

CHARLES HOBSON



THE ARCHIVE ROOM

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NOVEMBER 15, 2005 *to* FEBRUARY 21, 2006

WORKS ON EXHIBIT

VITRINE 1: *Historical Exhibit*

VITRINE 2

Why I Love Books: The Artworks of Charles Hobson, 2002

A fifty-six page exhibition catalogue with an introduction by Barry Lopez covering more than fifteen years of the artist's books and related work. The catalogue contains 110 four-color images and has been printed in an edition of 2000 copies, 100 of which have been specially bound in hard cover with hand-painted papers and include a limited edition pigment print signed by the artist.

Parisian Encounters, 1994

French door format book with offset lithography reproducing monotype/pastel portraits of eight famous couples who met in Paris, with maps and eccentric biographies. 6 x 11 inches. Chronicle Books trade edition.

Three Kisses, 2004

Accordion book with postcards, translucent envelopes, various papers and the photographs of Robert Doisneau with a fictional story by the artist about the persons in the photographs, as well as a pastel monotype reproduced as a digital pigment print with hand coloring. Edition of 90 copies.

VITRINE 3

Leonardo Knows Baseball, 1990

Accordion book juxtaposing excerpts from Leonardo Da Vinci's notebooks on how to draw the human figure in motion with baseball figures in action. Offset lithography trade edition reproducing hand-colored monotypes published by Chronicle Books. 10 x 8 x 1/2 inches.

VITRINE 3, CONTINUED

Extracts from The Diaries of Adam & Eve, 2003

A fictional "translation" by Mark Twain of his imagined dialogues of Adam and Eve. Pastel monotypes printed as digital pigment prints based on the human motion studies of Eadweard Muybridge with separate folded print entitled "Adam & Eve Embracing." Concertina and French door structure with cut-out pages and collaged folded sheets. Board covers and slipcase made by John DeMerritt. 13 x 5.75 x 1.5 inches. Edition of 38.

VITRINE 4 & 5

Shipwreck Stories, 1996

Historical accounts and fictional riffs about six shipwrecks along the Northern California coast occurring between 1865 and 1944. Accordion book with seven photogravures, hand-colored charts, and drawings on mylar. 10 1/4 x 8 3/4 x 1 inches. Edition of 28.

VITRINE 6

Dancing with Amelia, 2000

Fictional writing by Charles Hobson playing on the promise Amelia Earhart extracted from her husband-to-be on their wedding day: If in a year we don't find happiness, I want a divorce. They remained married the rest of her life. What did he do each year to keep her married to him? Airplane cutouts with monotypes of dancers as IRIS prints in accordion binding with laser cut cover in cloth covered chemise. 8 3/4 x 6 1/2 x 1 1/2 inches. Edition of 38.

VITRINE 6, CONTINUED

The Mappist, 2005

Short story by Barry Lopez. The narrator searches for the elusive master mapmaker who has inspired him. Concertina binding using original USGS maps. Bound in board covers wrapped with a map of Bogotá from 1911. Slipcase covered with wood grain paper and metal label holder. Edition of 48. 11 x 10 x 1.25 inches.

VITRINE 7

Man Ray's Kiss, 1995

Pastel monotype by Charles Hobson and accordion book of handwritten text on hand-painted BFK Rives, together with metronome and small book describing relationship between John Harrison, the inventor of the marine chronometer and Man Ray. 9 x 5 x 5 inches. Edition of 4 variations.

Fresnel's Tower, 1997

An homage to Augustine Fresnel who invented the lens which revolutionized lighthouse lamps in the 19th century. Limited edition sculptural book by Charles Hobson with photogravure, stacking cylinders with hand colored diagrams and laser prints. Fabric covered box. Edition of 38. 5 1/4 x 5 1/2 x 6 inches.

Magritte's Buckets, 1995

A fictional joining together of Rene Magritte and Isaac Hawkins, an 18th century Englishman, who were both looking for additional ways to navigate the globe. Poem and two pastel monotypes by Charles Hobson mounted in buckets made from board, copper, wire, brass tubing & bamboo, with small book describing relationship. Edition of 10. 4 x 4 x 2.5 inches.

THE ARTIST

CHARLES HOBSON is an artist and teacher who has worked with images and words for nearly twenty years. Usually following literary or historical themes, his books have covered topics as diverse as famous couples who met in Paris (*Parisian Encounters*) and shipwrecks along the California coast (*Shipwreck Stories*). He has taught at the San Francisco Art Institute since 1990 and his work is in the collections of the New York Public Library, the Whitney Museum, the National Gallery, and the Getty Center, among others.

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