Image, Text, and the Art of the Book

American writers, artists, and publishers have long explored the book form—its intimacy, portability, and physicality—asserting its position as a multifaceted historical and contemporary method of communication, as well as its significance as an evolving cultural object. The books that document these explorations raise questions about textuality, verbal and visual metaphor, tensions between language and image, and the physicality of texts. The Collection’s strength in the vast and growing body of work uniting art and text in book works includes fine press editions and handmade works, traditional codex formats and imaginative alternative bindings. The history and development of books and literature in American culture is reflected in these dynamic materials.


