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***Power of the Page:* Artists' Books as Agents for Change**



LOS GATOS, CA — March, 2017 — Opening May 4, 2017 and on view through September 17, 2017, New Museum Los Gatos (NUMU) presents *Power of the Page: Artists Books as Agents for Change*, an exhibition that celebrates artist made books as agents for change and social awareness.

The book has played a vital role in the realization of our modern freedoms. The medium of the book creates opportunity for both intimate reflection and broad communication. Artists' books are conceived as works of art in their own right and employ the unique expression of an artist's design, words and images. In *Power of the Page: Artists Books as Agents for Change*, artists' books tell stories of liberty and give voice to the call for justice. Narratives range from personal to public, from mythical to political.

Works on view in the exhibition include selections from artists from the Bay Area and beyond. Themes of personal freedom and public transparency inform the

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work of Ginger Burrell. Internationally known book artist and book art educator Julie Chen explores both form and content in her work, spanning from environmental issues, to a myth infused history of chocolate. Casey Gardner invites us to examine the variables of communication and transformation. Diane Jacobs celebrates the lives of legendary warrior women. A search for banned books inspired Lisa Kokin to transform a dictionary into art and a call for tolerance. As a reaction against war, Susan Lauder milk's book delivers a poetic plea for reliance on community and cooperation for peace. Mary Marsh chronicles the dissemination of information throughout the ages, reminding us of how access to ideas and news is the foundation of democracy. Personal choice contrasts with the reality of modern-day slavery in the books by Camden Richards. Clarissa Sligh's book examines oppression and violence with her poignant personal story of moving beyond hate. Michelle Wilson's narrative draws parallels between book conservation, political disappearances, and endangered bird species. Linda Vallejo asks us to consider some of the most difficult questions of our time: "Do race, color, and class define our status in the world?" "Is it possible to be a part of and earnestly contribute to multiple cultures simultaneously?"

Curator Marianne McGrath says "The themes and subject matter explored in *Power of the Page* is timely. The combination of art, creative craftsmanship and the book format create a unique platform for these issues. I am excited to share this work with the community."

NUMU will also present a variety of related programs to the exhibition, including summer artist bookmaking workshops for all ages, and a project on June 24th during NUMU's Summer Celebration event where members of the community will be invited to create and print their own activist posters.

Power of the Page: Artists Books as Agents for Change is generously supported by Wanda Kownacki. NUMU also gratefully acknowledges support from its many donors and members.

New Museum Los Gatos (NUMU), formerly The Museums of Los Gatos founded in 1965, is a public non-profit art and history museum located in the Civic Center Plaza in downtown Los Gatos. NUMU's mission is to engage the community at the intersection of art, history and education through innovative, locally connected and globally relevant exhibitions, programs and experiences. The NUMU Atelier offers classical instruction in painting and drawing. NUMU MakerSpace programs offer weekday, weekend and evening hands-on art instruction for children and adults.

Museum hours are Wednesday 1pm-5pm, Thursday 11am-8pm, and Friday through Sunday 11am-5pm. General admission is \$10. Admission for members of the military, seniors and students over 18 years is \$6, and free for members and visitors under 18 years of age.

Images: (Page 1) Michelle Wilson. *El Proceso*, 2007. Installation in Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery, Philadelphia, PA. Handmade flax and abaca paper, monofilament, custom book stand, letterpress, and screen print. 12 ft x 17 ft x 12 ft. (Page 2) Casey Gardner. *Threshold* (detail). Handbound letterpress printed book structure with pop-out turkish map. Materials: Rives Heavyweight and Rives BFK Elephant Hide, book cloth. Dimensions closed: 5.75 x 11.5"; open: 11.5" x 11.5".

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