bookworks

bookworks is a survey of contemporary artist book publishing that brings together six of the world’s leading exponents to Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA) from 24 July until 21 September 2019.

The exhibition explores the thematic connections between books, art and publishing from the conceptual, technical and material form of artist books – their history, production, classification and distribution.

Featuring the work of artists, graphic designers, book makers and publishers, the exhibition will host workshops and forums, as well as an independent art library.

Curator, influential Australian designer and educator Warren Taylor, has brought together a group of leading practitioners including Adam Cruickshank (AUD), Will Holder (UK), Olaf Nicolai (GER), Roma Publications (NDL), Batia Suter (NDL) and Ella Sutherland (NZ). Details on each participant follows this release.

In addition, up to 800 artists books and publications from 100 national and international publishers will be exhibited in the ambitious Art Library.

Taylor notes: ‘The Art Library will capture contemporary art publishing at a particular moment. It will be an alternative space for research and design and explore systems of classification and collaborative filtering through the intersection of print and digital media’.

A focus of the exhibition will be a survey of Amsterdam-based Roma publications, founded in 1998 by graphic designer Roger Willems and artists Mark Manders and Marc Nagtzaam. Born out of a close collaboration between writer, designer and artist, every Roma publication has its own rule of appearance and distribution - from artist books, newspapers, catalogues, posters and prints.

bookworks will present over 300 Roma publications alongside a series of large format prints by Batia Suter mirroring a concurrent project exhibited on the Mauvoisin dam in the Swiss mountains.

Mexican artist Ulises Carrión coined the term ‘bookworks’ in his influential text The New Art of Making Books (1975) in which he championed the book as a ‘space-time sequence,’ rather than a mere object of literary text: ‘A book can also exist as an autonomous and self-sufficient form, including perhaps a text that emphasises that form, a text that is an organic part of that form: here begins the new art of making books.’

bookworks is conceived and curated by renowned designer Warren Taylor who is a lecturer in Communication Design at Monash University and founder of The Narrows – a curatorial project interested in the convergence of art and design. Between 2006 and 2012 The Narrows presented exhibitions by distinguished graphic designers such as Ronald Clyne, Experimental Jetset, John Melin, Rogerio Duarte, Peter Brotzmann, Les Mason and Karel Martens.

Taylor has designed publications for artists such as Jon Campbell, Matt Hinkley, Bianca Hester, Nicholas Mangan and Elizabeth Newman as well as initiating a series of print workshops as a platform for artists and designers to connect through the medium of print. He was a keynote speaker at the international conference Graphic Design, Exhibiting, Curating at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy and is part of the editorial collective Re:collection, which edits and publishes an archive of Australian graphic design.

A new publication will accompany bookworks, consisting of a guide book and full-colour documentation supplement. Designed and edited by Warren Taylor, it is co-published by Monash University Museum of Art and Perimeter Editions, and features an essay by Warren Taylor, text by Adam Cruickshank, conversation with James Langdon and contributions from exhibition participants.

Warren Taylor and all participants are available for interview.

bookworks opens Wednesday 24 July until Saturday 21 September 2019 at Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA) Ground Floor, Building F, Monash University, Caulfield Campus, 900
Dandenong Road, Caulfield East. Entry Free. Tuesday-Friday, 10am – 5pm; Saturday 12-5pm
monash.edu/muma/

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Details about the participants:

**Will Holder** produces books with artists and musicians, and is preoccupied with ‘conversation’ as model and tool for mutual and improvised sets of publishing conditions – whereby the usual roles of commissioner, author, subject, editor, printer and typographer are improvised and shared, as opposed to assigned and predetermined. Through this process Holder placed particular attention on the oral production of value and meaning around cultural objects, and how live, extra informational qualities might be analysed, documented and scored.

Based in London, Holder is editor of F.R.DAVID, a journal concerned with reading and writing in the arts (published by de Appel, Amsterdam since 2006). In May 2009 he co-curated *Talk Show* (with Richard Birkett) at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, an exhibition and season of events concerning speech and accountability. Together with Alex Waterman, he is edited and designed *Yes, But Is It Edible?* a biography of American composer Robert Ashley for four or more voices (Vancouver: New Documents, 2014).

Swiss-born, Amsterdam-based artist **Batia Suter** (b.1967) studied at the art academis of Zurich and Arnhem, and was trained at the Werkplaats Typografie. Suter produces monumental prints of digitally manipulated images for specific locations, and works on photo-animations, image sequences and collages, often using found pictures and placing old images in new contexts.

In 2007, she published *Parallel Encyclopedia* (Roma), followed by *Parallel Encyclopedia #2* in 2016 (Roma), which comprise a large composition of images taken from books she has collected throughout the years. *Surfaces Series* (Roma) published in 2011, is an evocative montage of found images exploring the diverse resonances of geological landscape and visual surface.

**Roma Publications** is an Amsterdam-based art publisher founded in 1998 by graphic designer Roger Willems and artists Mark Manders and Marc Nagtzaam. It is used as a platform to produce and distribute autonomous publications made in close collaboration with a growing number of artists, institutions, writers and designers. Related to the content, every issue has its own rule of appearance and distribution, varying from house to house papers to exclusive books. Their inclusion in *bookworks* s focuses on a survey of publications produced by Roma Publications between 1998 and 2019.

**Olaf Nicolai** lives and works in Berlin. After studying German language and literature at the University of Leipzig, he has been a visual artist since 1990. In addition to participating in solo and group exhibitions, he has shown at *documenta X* (1997) and *documenta 14* (2017), at the 49th and 51st Venice Biennale (2001 and 2005). His *documenta 14* commission, *In The Woods There Is A Bird*… was awarded the Karl-Szcuka-Prize 2017 for works of radio art.

Renowned for his conceptual work, Nicolai uses publishing as a method to translate, contextualise and examine his practice. With almost 100 publications to date, Nicolai will expand a selection of projects for *bookworks*, including *HOW TO PRODUCE A SITE SPECIFIC WORK ANYWHERE* which involves a doppelgänger acting as the artist for a period before the show. The project has been staged in Porto, Praha, Wien, Varna, München, Rovereto, Olten, Hamburg- Harburg, Athen and Tbilsi, and documentation handed to the artist through the curator is published under the name of Olaf Nicolai, as if he had been in Melbourne keeping the diary.

**Adam Cruickshank** is an artist, graphic designer and intermittent publisher who holds a Master of Fine Art from Monash University. He teaches in the MADA faculty at Monash University and is a PhD candidate at RMIT University where the title of his research, ‘Institutional Parasites’, reflects his interest in the relationships between graphic design and art practice. He has previously worked in London, Sydney and Melbourne as art director for a number of mainstream publishers, including the BBC. He has exhibited widely in Australia, including solo shows at West Space, TCB, Boxcopy, Plimsoll Gallery and Linden Contemporary. He recently attended the Université d’ete at the Bibliothèque Kandinsky, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.

Cruickshank’s project for *bookworks* intends to explore the nature of the relationships between exhibited art practices and the printed ephemera produced by the exhibition space (in this case MUMA) that support, explain and further contextualise artworks.
**Ella Sutherland**

Ella studied graphic design at Ilam School of Fine Arts in Christchurch and while completing a Master’s degree co-founded Dog Park Art Project Space (Christchurch, 2012–14). Alongside her design and research-based projects, Ella teaches in the Visual Communication Programme at the University of Technology Sydney.

Her recent commissions include art direction for EFFE and Field Theory, books for Enjoy Public Art Gallery and the Biennale of Sydney, and websites for Inside and Future Souths.