MCBA MINNESOTA CENTER FOR BOOK ARTS

THE *FORE* EDGE

We are once again excited to showcase **ten artists' books available for sale** in person and online at The Shop at MCBA. Here are some overlapping themes you'll find in Issue 5:

- Internal landscapes of the **pandemic**; faraway landscapes of the **sun's surface**
- **Artistic paths** involving the choice to use paper and **to address racism** and oppression
- That ephemeral feeling of **watching snow fall** through a window; what **deep winter** feels like, accumulating year after year.
- Similarities between the **human form** and **forms in nature**.

Click on the images below to view the work on **shopmnbookarts.org**. We welcome your inquiries! For questions, to place a hold on an item, or to request multiple copies of editioned work, don't hesitate to email theshop@mnbookarts.org.

View All Artists' Books

FEATURED ARTISTS' BOOKS

Claire Downes Whitehurst & Drum Machine Editions

Mirror Drawings



Mirror Drawings is a bound suite of screen prints by Claire Whitehurst (Jackson, MS). The thirty images in this collection—originally conceived as drawings and monotypes during the **early days of the COVID-19 pandemic**—appear here as mirrored pairs. Borrowing inspiration from the **lush natural world of the South**, the linework and iconography compose a **personal landscape** of idiosyncratic symmetries: **listlessness and ecstasy, loneliness and wonder**. —Drum Machine Editions

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Alisa Banks

Self



Self was initiated during the **uncertainty, casualty, and reckoning** that occurred during the **early months of the COVID-19 pandemic**, as an exercise to help examine, position, and **care for self**, particularly in ways that have the potential to open up possibilities for dialog. It serves as a reminder that the power to choose how **to initiate conversation, to resist, to speak out, to consider, to share, and to listen** in any given situation resides within. —Alisa Banks

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Smashing Press

staring at our sun



NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory photographs our sun every 15 minutes. This cascading accordion **reproduces NASA's photos of our sun**, inverted, sequentially across 37 days (one full solar rotation), and includes an intervening lunar transit. This rotating sun with interrupting moon may be **paged through as an accordion book or animated**...between the hands, somewhat like a slinky. Inkjet printing, letterpress moon, hand-folded. —nif hodgson

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Lu Jingren, Amanda Degener, and Peng Wu

Handmade Path



There are hundreds of talented international book designers, papermakers, and book artists that could have contributed to *Handmade Path*. We invited **artists whose paths have intersected with the three collaborators**: Lu Jingren, Amanda Degener and Peng Wu…The represented artists in *Handmade Path* provide **insight into how they got started, their breakthroughs and breakdowns, why they still make paper and books**, and their future dream projects. —Lu Jingren, Amanda Degener, and Peng Wu

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Jennifer Farrell

The Twelve Alphabet



The Twelve Alphabet is an **abecedarium** in which each letterform and an ampersand are **constructed entirely of metal type and ornament having the typographic measurement of 12 points** along at least one side. The letters are inspired by both contemporary and historic sources and are printed in two split fountain ink passes. The spirit of the project was to examine the detailed intricacies of metal ornament and show how various **designs across the decades come together to create modern typeforms**. —Jennifer Farrell

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Clarissa Sligh

Transforming Hate



In *Transforming Hate: An Artist's Book*, I was trying to look at what it was like for me to **turn the hateful words of the white supremacist books into a beautiful art object**. That exploration helped me understand more fully the **many levels of oppression and violence at the intersections of race, gender, class, and sexual orientation**. Why do we keep each other from being who we really are? How can we begin to talk about what separates us? ... **Do we have the courage to live differently?** —Clarissa Sligh

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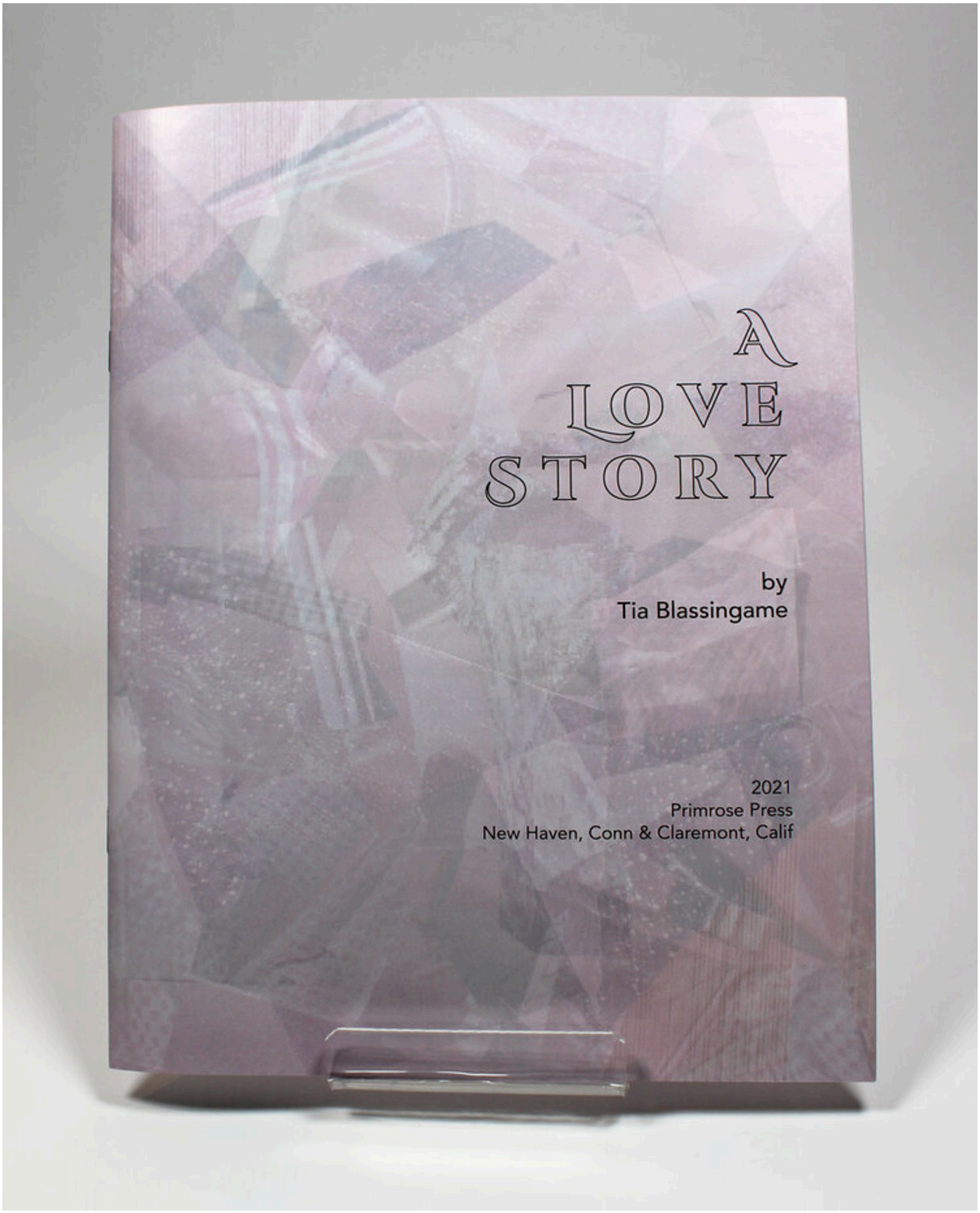
Tia Blassingame

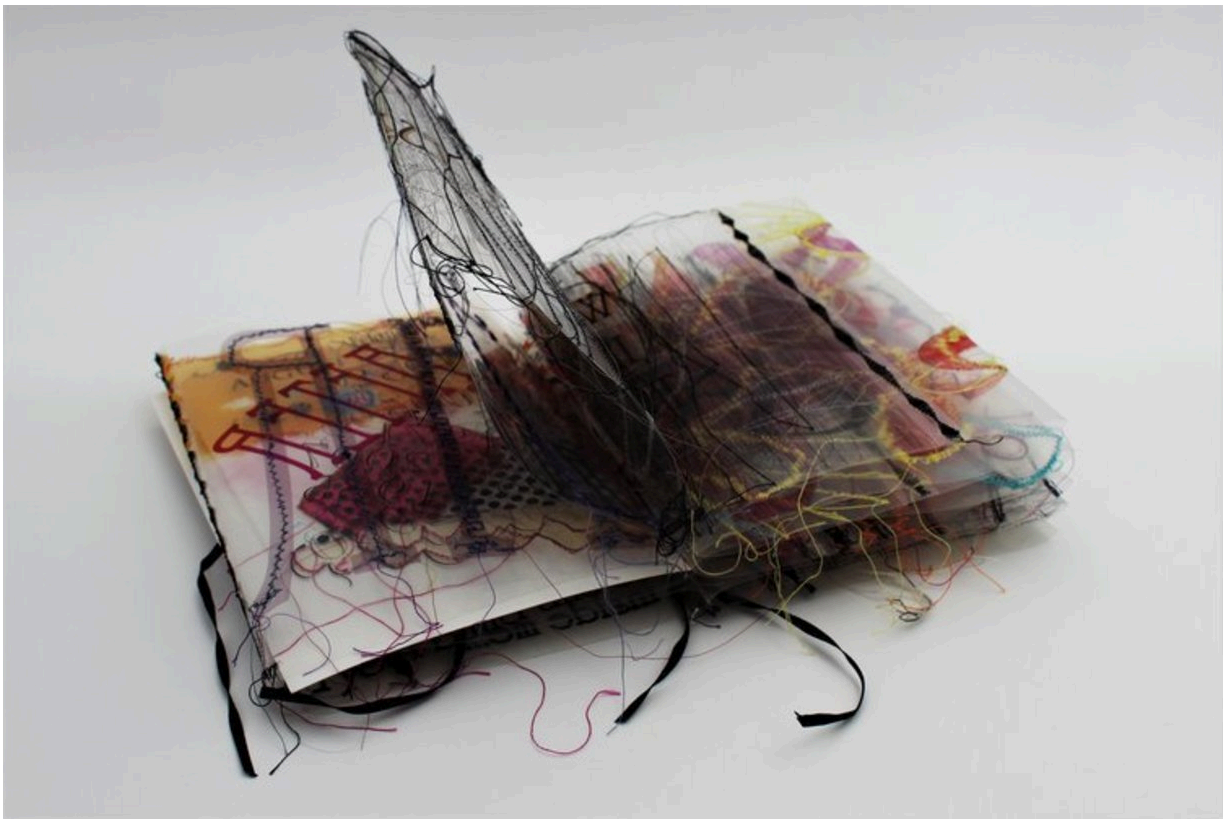
A Love Story



A Love Story is a **love letter to the book arts field** and the creative process with its eccentricities. Centered on making **artists' books with a social justice focus**, the book with its collage backgrounds and poems **presents the artist's process** from conceptualizing through editioning and presenting. —Tia Blassingame

Elise Lerner

The Night it Falls



This **embroidered narrative is a visual poem** that **captures my thoughts as I look out my window on a snowy night**. Translucent pages reflect ephemeral emotion. I stitch on acetate to play with the **tension between being seen and unseen**. Sometimes I hide. Sometimes I'm overlooked. It's always a challenge to make my mark, despite how invisible I feel. —Elise Lerner

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Julie Baugnet

Staying the Winter



This book is a collaborative venture and is a reflection of our **countless years staying the winters in Alaska and Minnesota**. It is a unique **gatefold format with 2 spines**. On the left, seven tercet poems are **letterpress printed**. The right-hand pages open to **reveal images of winter**. I chose to use abstract forms—leaving the short poems to evoke imagery for the reader to imagine. —Julie Baugnet

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Andi Arnovitz

Natural Mutations



Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “Each creature is only a modification of the other; the likeness in them is more than the difference.” These **tiny etchings** are my musings about the **similarities between the human form and nature**. My children’s **baby teeth look like tiny sea shells** washed up on the shore, which look like the little seeds dropped by certain trees. —Andi Arnovitz

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