

2011 Book Arts Group Collaboration Theme: The Exquisite Corpse

Exquisite Corpse is a game originally played by European surrealists in the early part of the 20th century. There are written and pictorial forms of this game; both involve the same principle, that the players each make a contribution to the whole. The pictorial form of Exquisite Corpse (also called Picture Consequences) is for each participant to form a picture of a body in multiple sections.

Each participant will have their own book as a result of this collaboration, plus we'll make a book for the Museum of Printing History for their archives, and another book for sending around to national or international book arts shows. Each participant will provide (draw, paint, stamp, letterpress, etc.) a separate head and shoulders, a separate midsection of the body, and a separate legs and feet. The person is drawn in portions, with the paper folded after each portion so that later participants can see earlier portions.

During our first meeting in January, we'll talk about, and please bring samples, of how to put this type of book together. For example, we'll discuss constructing single sheet books, perhaps using an accordion book in 3 parts, what card stock and papers weights we could use.

Meeting Schedule:

- 1. Planning Meeting and Sign Up as a Collaboration participant - Thursday, January 6, 2011 – Meet at 5:30 pm at the Museum of Printing History, before the HBAG meeting.**
2. Mock-Up Meeting – February, 2011 – time, date and place to be determined.
3. Dress Rehearsal Meeting – March, 2011 – time, date and place to be determined.
4. Cover and binding finalized – April, 2011 – time, date and place to be determined.
5. Actual Binding of the collaboration – May, 2011 – time, date and place to be determined.

Anne Rita Taylor and Kristin Aaker Flanagan volunteered to head up the 2011 Book Art Collaboration at the planning meeting in August, 2010. The inspiration for the theme of Exquisite Corpse came from the recent Museum of Printing History exhibit of Craig W. Jensen's work. Although his sample of the Exquisite Corpse is in 4 parts, we determined it would be more workable to have the collaboration portions (or body parts) in 3 parts.

