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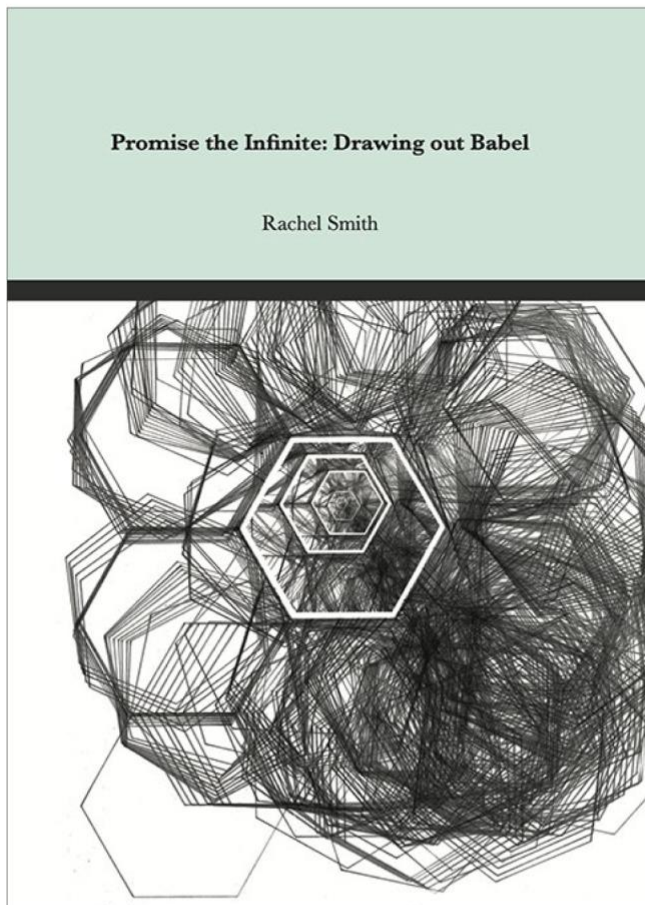
Artists' Books Exhibitions in the Bower Ashton Library showcases, UWE, Bristol, UK

Rachel Smith

Promise the Infinite: Drawing out Babel

Weds 7th December 2022 - Tuesday 31st January 2023

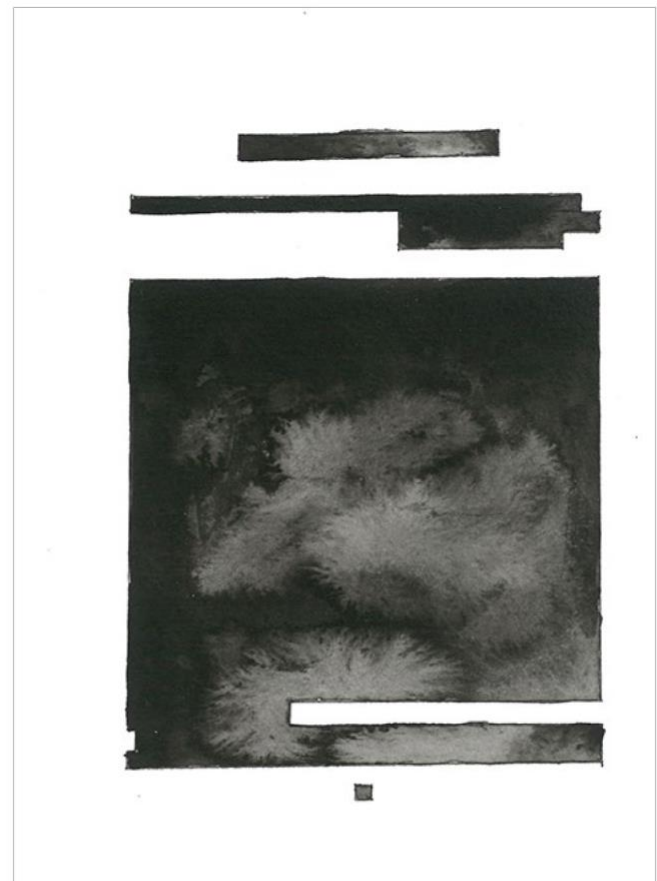
Rachel Smith is an interdisciplinary artist whose work spans drawing, photography, writing, book arts, and performance. Her work meanders through existing texts, fragmenting narratives, appropriating text, using association, error, and distraction to visualise how sense might be sought, rejected, and re-fused.



This work was produced while reading the short story of 'The Library of Babel' by Jorge Luis Borges. His imagined library is a metaphor for the universe, a rhizomatic structure without a centre or an outside, with an infinite number of interconnected hexagonal rooms. The library shelves are believed to contain every book ever written or that may ever be written, in every conceivable language. All the books appear to be unreadable provoking people to search

for rooms containing readable books. It is said humans spend their lives in search of such books, and 'perhaps the catalogue of catalogues'.

However, if all the books in a library appear impossible to read I am led to consider the ways in which I might engage with their pages, to explore what such a reading process could look like. Ideas connected to this premise are what drives my work, exploring approaches to reading and alternatives to expected methods or research behaviours. As a neuro-diverse and queer reader I have frequently mapped my own routes through libraries, books, and pages to better understand how distraction, association, error, misunderstanding or mis-remembering, form a part of the reading and sense-making process.



In this work, I have been obsessively drawing, perhaps cataloguing, imagined pages from each of the books in this infinite library. Each drawing is constrained by the first page of Borges' nine-page story. As each book in the library of Babel is unreadable, so each drawing responds to a visual element of the text or the process of reading the



A new episode of Booklyn Calling Brooklyn-based artist and self-proclaimed “hydro-feminist”, sTo Len, joins us to talk about his life so far as an artist, spanning his teenage years to today. From selling gas station zines and printmaking with dead fish to making collaborative artists’ books with the Organik collective and his position as the first-ever NYC Department of Sanitation artist-in-residence. A super fun episode with a lot to be covered!

Booklyn Calling amplifies diverse voices within the artist’s book field and explores artmaking as a tool for community engagement, education, and social justice work. Hosted by Monica Johnson & Marshall Weber of Booklyn, Inc.

Please support us by subscribing to Booklyn Calling now on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or just listen to all episodes on our website as they come out.
<https://booklyn.org/exhibition/booklyn-calling/>

SJ Fowler and Egidija Ciricaite read *SHOW ME THE ORIGINAL: nine thoughts on poetic language* at the Small Publishers Fair, London, UK, 2022. Set between theory, poetry and image, the book explores the notion of “original” in poetic language.



Watch the video at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_jqXM7ECWQ

NEW ARTISTS’ PUBLICATIONS

The Blue Notebook: Journal for artists’ books
 Vol 17 No 1 Autumn - Winter 2022



Free download at:
<http://www.bookarts.uwe.ac.uk/blue-notebook>

We are always on the lookout for submissions for future issues. Visit the website for details:
<http://www.bookarts.uwe.ac.uk/blue-notebook>
 If you need any info or have any questions, please contact Sarah at: Sarah.Bodman@uwe.ac.uk



Angelo Ricciardi 2011-2020
 Kraichtal (Germany); Napoli: Baustellenbuero, 2022
 The book is a *story* of Angelo Ricciardi’s conceptual and minimalist experiments, carried out between 2011 and 2020. The images and critical texts collected here witness the artist’s work, which alternately takes on - often subtly intertwining them - the two main lines of research that exist in contemporary art: that of *irony*, which puts the world at a safety distance, and that of discursive and perceptive

estrangement, which allows things to reveal their unusual and hidden aspects, preserving their memory; the memory of what they have never really been. (*Vincenzo Cuomo*)

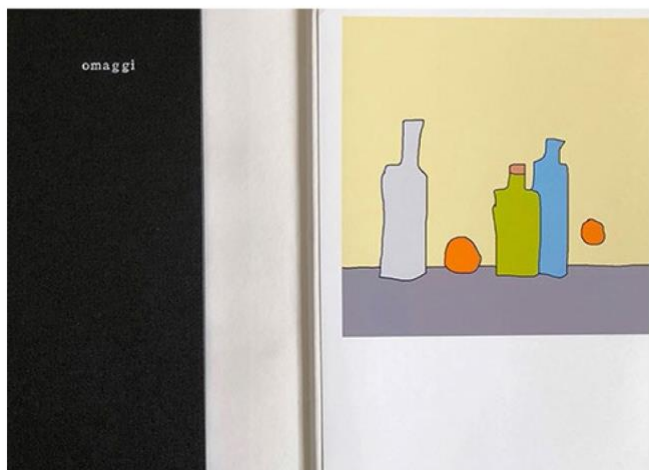
Letterpress printed, 24 x 18 cm, 176 p., ill. Edition of 250 copies (Euro 20) of which 25 numbered and signed by the author (Euro 50).

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Omaggi

Angelo Ricciardi

Twelve tributes, in order of appearance to: Marcel Duchamp, Sol LeWitt, Giorgio Morandi, Roland Topor, Robert Filliou, Emilio Isgrò, Allen Ginsberg, Piero Manzoni, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, Alexander Calder and an unknown hero.



2022, digitally printed on Wellum White 120 paper, hand-bound, with a bookmark and an original drawing 48 p., 24x18 cm, 6/6 + III/III. Euro 250

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Southend on Sea 1972

Ron McCormick
Café Royal Books

Two Views, Southend on Sea
Beecroft Art Gallery, Southend on Sea, Essex

Two Views was an innovative project initiated in 1972 by Barry Lane, Photography Officer at the then Arts Council of Great Britain, whereby eight photographers would be commissioned to make photographs in eight British Towns. Each photographer was assigned two towns to explore and each town would be photographed by two photographers. The resulting photographs would later be exhibited in a public venue in the town presenting the different personal perceptions about the place and perhaps shed light on the

varied approaches and working methods employed by the two photographers that had been selected.

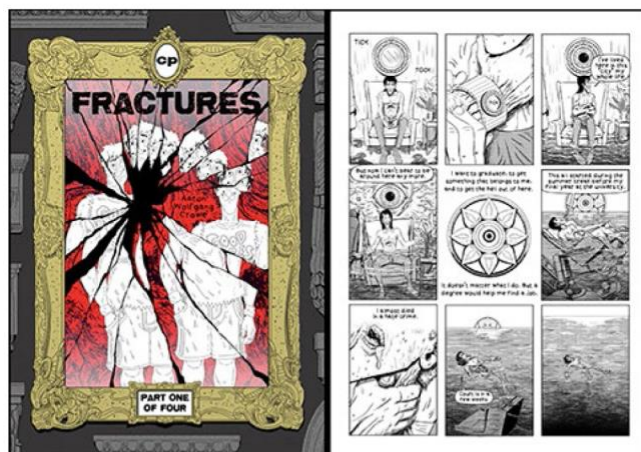


36 pages, printed in England, staple bound, 14 x 20 cm. £6.50. More information and purchase link at: <https://www.caferoyalbooks.com/shop/ron-mccormick-southend-on-sea-1972>

Fractures, Book 1

Aaron Wolfgang Crowe
Colossive Press

Book One of our first-ever comic series, *Fractures* by A. Wolfgang Crowe.



In 2015 A Wolfgang Crowe was the target of a violent homophobic attack while working in his father's shop. Inspired by that event, his four-part series, *Fractures*, tells the story of the physical, psychological and legal struggles that continue after cuts heal and bruises fade.

Following in the graphic medicine tradition of *Lighter Than My Shadow* (Katie Green) and *Stitches* (David Small), *Fractures* draws on past trauma to create a brave, visually inventive and incisive work that highlights the vulnerability and strength within us all.

A Wolfgang Crowe has an MA in Illustration from the University of Plymouth. He was joint runner-up in the Observer/Cape/Comica graphic short story prize 2021 for his comic *Andrew*. A previous project, *Danger Man*, was