

THE TIES THAT BIND

Maxwell Mays Gallery - June 13 - July 2

Wanda Perkowska Coderre
Carol Strause FitzSimonds
Arlene K. McGonagle

"The Ties that Bind" brings together the work of artists Wanda Perkowska Coderre, Carol Strause FitzSimonds and Arlene K. McGonagle. The multi-media pieces, while distinct to each artist, relate to one another and come together to create a truly unique exhibition. From the delicate hand-crafted artist books of FitzSimonds, to McGonagle's intricate textiles, to the vibrant watercolors of Coderre, these complementary works weave together an impressive exhibition. This profile focuses on the work of Carol Strause FitzSimonds.



A professional printmaker for 28 years, FitzSimonds has exhibited her artwork at colleges, museums and galleries nationwide and abroad in Ireland, Czechoslovakia and Australia. Her prints are housed in numerous collections, including the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, United States Library of Congress, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Newport Art Museum, Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University, Fairfield University, Villanova University, Wheaton College and the Providence Art Club.

IDEA: THE TIES THAT BIND

Carol Strause Fitzsimonds: Using the title of my upcoming exhibit at the Providence Art Club as inspiration, I wrote a list of all the ideas and things that I felt bind people together. Working from this list I created prints for 5 books using various print techniques – solar plate, collagraph, and gelatin print.

1 The Ties That Bind: Language - Altered Book with Case, 36 solar plate monoprints 10 height. x 7.5 width x 3 depth inches, 2009.

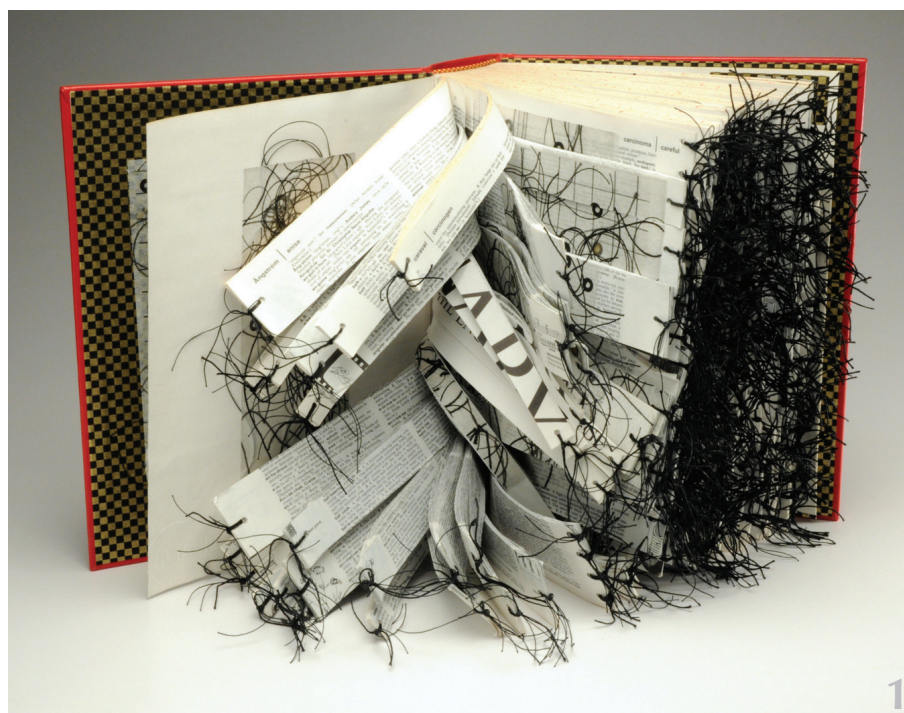
Plate Technique: I created 10 solar plates of various sizes using found objects (various size strings and washers) placed directly on the gel solar plates then exposed to sunlight for 30 to 45 seconds. I did a second exposure (double exposure technique) using an aquatint screen film to preserve areas of tone. Second exposure was for 1 1/2 minutes. Any area on the plates not protected from the sun by the image will harden. Next the plates were washed in tap water for 15 seconds or so with a soft shoe brush to remove the still soft gel. The plates were patted dry with newspaper then exposed to 15 minutes of sun to harden for printing.

Using the 10 plates in different combinations, overprinting one plate after the other...I created 36 monoprints to glue into an old Webster's Dictionary. I sectioned the book into 50 page units, glued a print, then cut each of these sections into more sections that were then tied together with different size threads. As these sections are opened, different parts of other monoprints and the printed words are exposed and combined visually. The 36 monoprints become part of hundreds of visual combinations as the viewer goes through the book.

2 Every Petal – Star Concertina Book, 19 solar plate mixed media prints, 2009. Part of an on-going series of floral images...this book is currently on display in the ALRI 10th Anniversary Annual Members' Exhibit at RISD Museum in Providence.

3 The Ties That Bind - Concertina Artist Book, 12 collagraph monoprints, 5 height x 6.5 width x 3/4 depth inches, 2010. Continuing with the theme - I used tarlatan, thread, and knots in this series of collagraph monoprints created from 2 plates of 4 pieces each. I interchanged the parts between the plates and placed inked knotted thread in a different position with each run through the press.

4 The Ties That Bind – Free Form Book - 5 height x 6 width x 2.5 depth inches, 2009. This box book was created using the sections I removed from the Webster's Dictionary. I lined the box with solar plate prints and wrapped some of the sections with parts of prints or printed words whose meaning bound people together.



1



2



3



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The Providence Art Club



Founded in 1880 to stimulate the appreciation of art in the community, the Club has long been a place for artists and art patrons to congregate, create, display and circulate works of art. Located along Thomas Street, in the shadow of the First Baptist Church, the Providence Art Club is a picturesque procession of historic houses, home to studios, galleries and the clubhouse. Through its public programs, its art instruction classes for members and its active exhibition schedule, the Providence Art Club continues a tradition of sponsoring and supporting the visual arts in Providence and throughout Rhode Island.

The Providence Art Club
www.ProvidenceArtClub.org

Carol Strause FitzSimonds
www.csfitzsimonds.com

Arlene K. McGonagle
www.basketsculpture.com

Wanda Perkowska Coderre
www.wpcart.com

Maxwell Mays Gallery
www.hollands.com/max.html

ARTIST STATEMENT

"Printmaking is innovation."

... Michael Mazur

"Actually, it is the potential for change that captivates me."

Wayne Thiebaud

Combine these two sentiments and that sums up my approach to printmaking. I love the possibility to see and try alternatives; the potential in various techniques and materials is what makes me so passionate about this art form. Today's printmaker has so many choices from the traditional methods and materials of stone, wood and metal to 21st century solar plate, plastic and computer technology. This is a fabulous time to be a printmaker.

Add to printmaking the re-emergence of the book as "fine art" and there is even more potential for innovation in concept and presentation for artists. "Touch" is now linked to "look and see" as my prints can move off the wall to become tactile sculpture. Each print becomes part of a larger whole, tied together by structure and/or text. I feel that being a printmaker/book artist, and being able to share my technical knowledge of these arts with others is a great privilege and my joy. Several of the books on exhibit were inspired by the wonderful camaraderie and artistic passion for printmaking shared by members of the Art Club and the creative spirit of my two co-exhibitors: Arlene McGonagle and Wanda

Perkowska Coderre. For me this exhibit was always about collaboration and commitment. We began as friends at the start of this exhibit project and our friendship has only grown stronger from this shared experience. Thank you.

Carol works from her home studio overlooking the Sakonnet River in Portsmouth, R.I. She shares her love for printmaking with others through teaching and being part of a collaboration projects such as the Printmakers Network of Southern New England's "Travel," a 3-book collection of poetry and original prints.