

Book Arts at Hereford College of Arts 2009/2010

As a specialist college of arts we have developed a strong interest book arts initiative. Book arts workshops are delivered in many of the college course programs. The making of books is regarded as an appropriate and useful craft skill to learn within many art and design disciplines.

Every year a book arts project is set as a cross-college competition that culminates in a professional national touring exhibition that is displayed in a wide range of high profile venues which include UK and European artists' book fairs, UK universities, arts centres, libraries and galleries. Students are invited to enter the competition and submit art work that considers the form and function of the book. Course tutors encourage students to explore and expand the traditional boundaries of the book. This ethos reflects the wide range of potential for the investigation of the book form in specialist art and design education.

The book works produced for the competition are made using a wide range of media and concepts based on the students' interpretations and notion of the book. These often are very personal responses to a wide variety of subjects. These include books as sculpture, and works which explore different types of narrative and the time based nature of sequentially folded and bound pages. Students have the opportunity to devise works that are produced through digital means, as well as engagement with more traditional methods of production.

The college has a growing reputation for student art work that celebrates the tactile qualities of the book, demonstrating that the book form can be appropriated by artists and designers and presented in new and exiting ways.