

Not By The Book
September 23 – December 8, 2021

ARTIST BIOS

Shiela Hale is an artist and designer residing in Katonah, NY. She studied at Syracuse University School of Art, before completing her BA at Pace University. She later earned a MA in Women's History from Sarah Lawrence College. Hale is a self-professed "lover of books." Drawn to their form and content, she makes books, alters books, and builds with books. The natural world and contemporary issues also inspire her. Hale frequently fabricates the tables – like the Cathedral Tables in this show – on which she displays her art. Regionally, she has exhibited extensively, in juried exhibitions at the Katonah Museum of Art and Silvermine Arts Center, group shows at the Westport Arts Center, and solo exhibitions at The Studio in Armonk and Silvermine galleries. In 2009, she won first prize at Katonah's Tri-State Juried Exhibition. A sense of urgency motivates her work now, communicating her concern about the use and misuse of language, the inaccessibility of knowledge, and other pressing issues of today.

Chris Perry graduated from Maryland Institute College of Art with a degree in painting. He ran a successful architectural woodworking business in New York City for thirty years, before recommitting himself to art in 2007. Designs for a planned art book led him to study bookbinding, and soon the painter was a book artist. Perry's art explores the properties of water through the medium of constructed and altered books set on pedestals, hung from walls, and suspended from ceilings. Perry has exhibited nationally, including an installation at the Atlanta Airport, solo shows at the Schumacher Gallery at Westover School and Minot State University, and group exhibitions at the Gallery at Penn College and Mark Twain Library. He also co-curated the traveling exhibition *Freed Formats* in 2017. Several public collections now hold his artwork, including the Allan Chasanoff Collection at Yale University Art Gallery. A Ridgefield, CT resident, Perry is an active member of the Ridgefield Guild of Artists and currently spearheads its online initiatives as Gallery Coordinator.

Andrew Sovjani graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and pursued a career in international business, before returning to his roots in the arts. The child of working artists, he studied at the New England School of Photography, after leaving corporate management. Sovjani fuses his artistic lineage and engineering background with his experiences living in Asia to create transcendent works that blur the line between painting, printmaking, and photography. In his images in this exhibition, he draws on the physicality of books and questions the transformation of reading into a mono-sensory experience with the rise of digital media. Based in Massachusetts, Sovjani has exhibited internationally and nationally, including at PhotoPlace Gallery, Cynthia Reeves Gallery, and Calloway Fine Art. Public and private collections contain his work, and he has earned awards of distinction from top fine arts festivals across the nation. In 2008 and 2016, he was a finalist for the Critical Mass book awards.

Erin Walrath is an assemblage and collage artist living in Roxbury, CT, with a studio in Danbury, CT. She holds a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA from Western Connecticut State University. At RISD, she earned a place in the European Honors

Program in Rome. Color and texture are central to Walrath's practice. They are her primary focus in selecting, deconstructing, and reassembling book covers. As she explains, the goal of her book constructions is "to create a new context where these visual elements, free now from the burden of words, can convey new meaning." She has frequently exhibited her sculptures, assemblages, and installations regionally, with several solo exhibitions at John Davis Gallery and group exhibitions at the Boscobel House and Gardens, Hill-Stead Museum, Harts Gallery, and others, including a juried show at the Katonah Museum of Art. Walrath currently teaches in the Department of Art at WCSU.