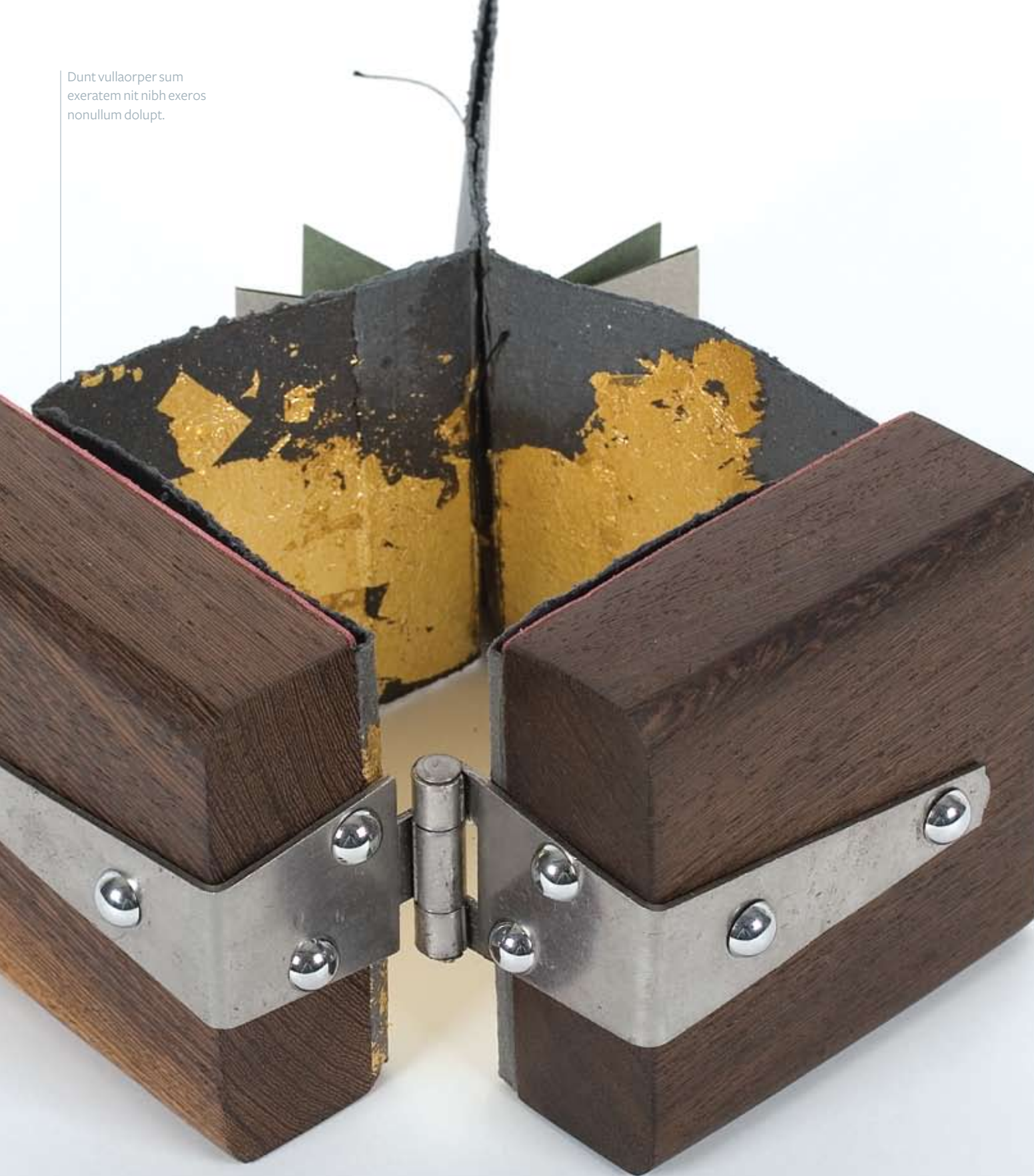


Guide to the Artists' Books Collection
University of Southampton Library

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Introduction

Winchester School of Art Library is a specialist art and design library which supports teaching, learning and research. It is one of the five libraries that together comprise the University of Southampton Library.

One of the Library's strengths is its Artists' Books Collection. This collection, which concentrates on books made either by hand or in limited editions, was started shortly after the School of Art moved to its current premises in Park Avenue in 1966. It now includes over one thousand items and is a collection of national standing. An article on the collection by Linda Newington and Catherine Polley, entitled *Alive and Kicking – the Artists' Book Collection at Winchester School of Art Library* appears in *The Artist's Book Yearbook 2006-07*, published by Impact Press in 2005.

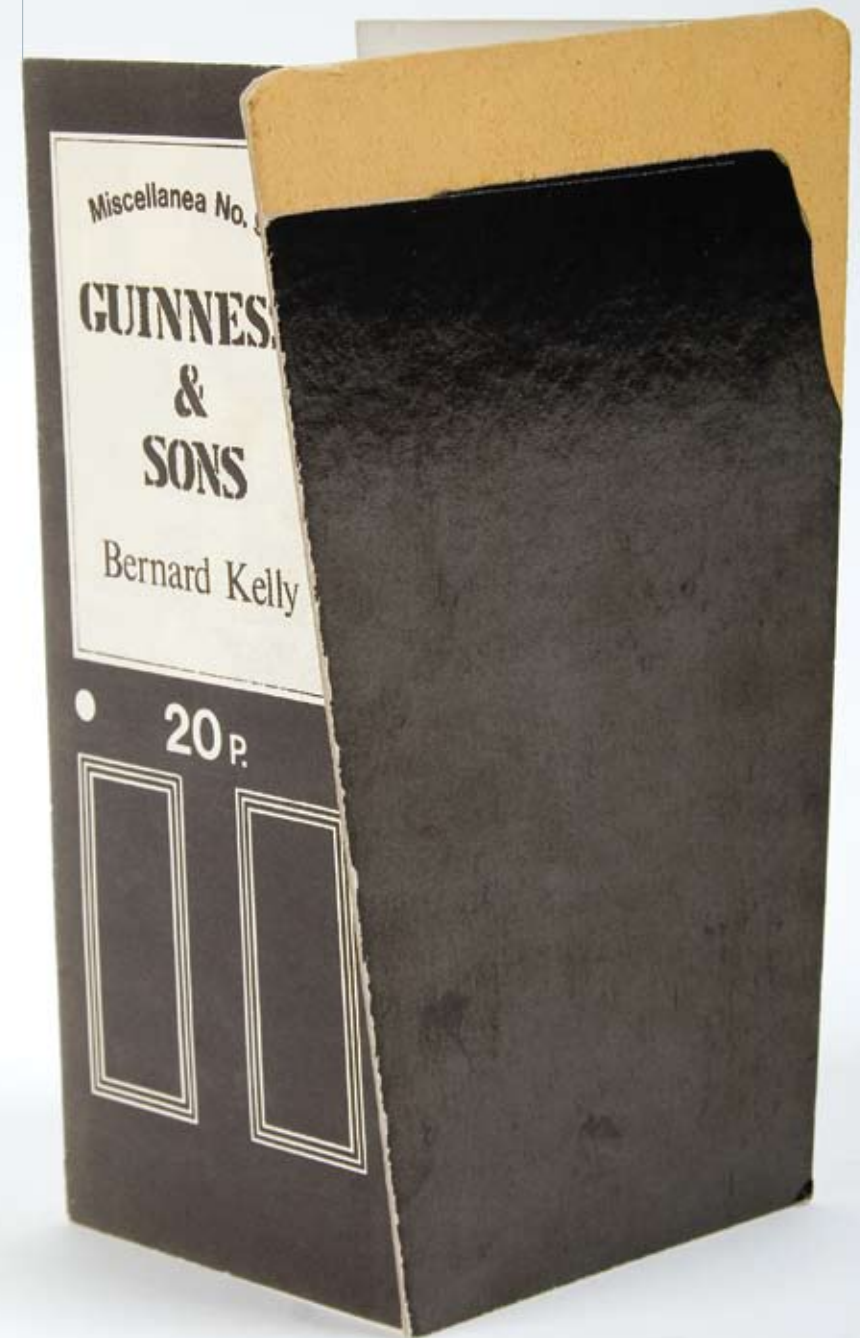
The early collection

Contemporary artists' books may be considered to have developed out of the conceptual art movement of the 1960s. The Artists' Books Collection contains a number of early gems from these years, including Ed Ruscha's *Crackers*, Ian Hamilton *Finlay* and Steve Wheatley's *Arcadian Gliders*, and Susan Hiller's *Rough Sea*.

Steve Wheatley

The early collection includes a comprehensive selection of about 40 books dating from 1970 onwards by a former member of staff at the School, Steve Wheatley. Wheatley began White Lies Publications in the mid-1970s publishing the work of other artists and writers. In his own work he uses deceptively simple concepts and forms to convey a complex range of ideas applying his individual sense of humour, the use of poetry and a liking for wordplay.

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Contemporary artists

Contemporary artists continue to challenge and negotiate the book form. Our collection reflects the wide variety of materials and range of formats created since the 1960s through to the present day. These include books made using traditional printmaking techniques to items that challenge the common-sense definition of the book, for example the butterfly boxes of Tracey Bush, and the varied collections and materials used by artists to create the series of works entitled *Visionaire*.

Alongside these items, many of which are one-off, small scale, self-produced and hand-made, our collection includes a number of books from book art publishers such as Boekie Woekie, Bookworks, Circle Press, Imschoot and Mermaid Turbulence.

We regularly visit artists' book fairs and also meet artists in order to acquire new works. We have recently added books by Cally Barker, John Bently, Sarah Bodman, Tracey Bush, John Dilnot, Simon Morley, Mark Paulson, Salt & Shaw, Lucy May Schofield, Tom Sowden and Heather Weston.



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while, but it's slowly building, even as I sit here.

been inside.

Something's *wrong*.

...tolerate it much longer).

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John Dilnot

John Dilnot has been making books for nearly 25 years; the Artists' Books Collection includes an extensive range of his books.

Dilnot is an artist who is able to combine the sensibility and skills from both graphic design and fine art to produce interesting and varied forms utilising and merging different techniques in creating a distinct identity for his work. The forms whether books, boxes, cards, maps, paintings, prints, scrapbooks or even wallpaper, become the messengers for his preoccupations: the everyday, the visualisation of nature in an urban environment and the intentional use of nostalgia. A further distinctive and integral part of this identity is to be found in the method of production which is print; from potato to digital, hand to machine, none are excluded.

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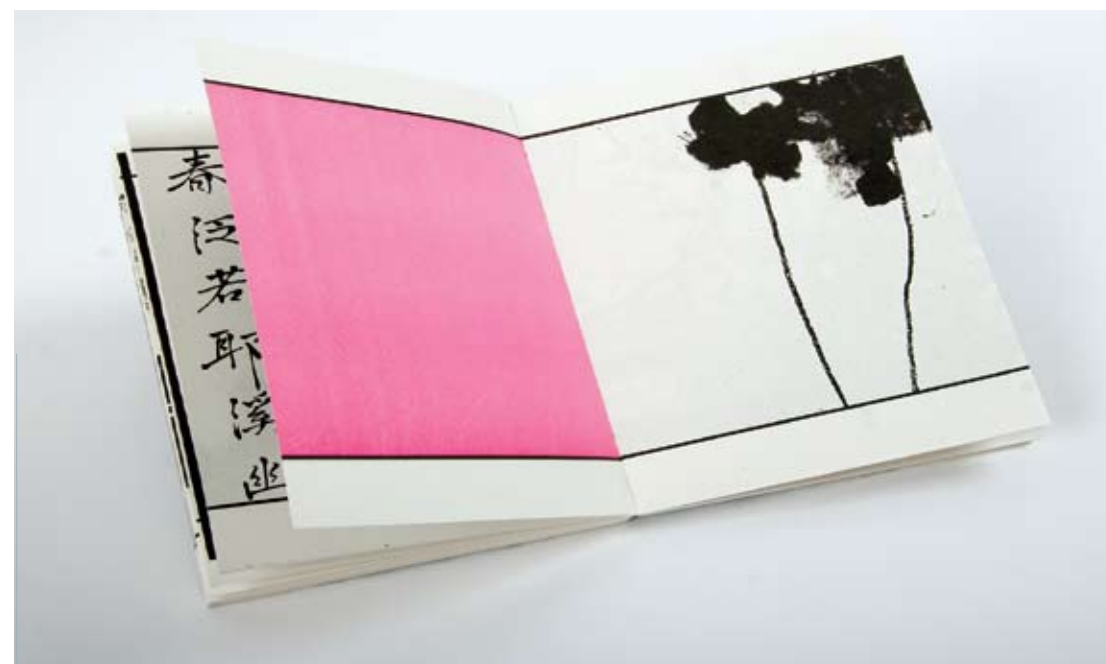
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Helen Douglas

Helen Douglas has been making books since 1974 when she joined the imprint *Weproductions* that had been started by Telfer Stokes. She makes collaborative and solo books which are well represented in the Artists' Books Collection.

Her books demonstrate a wide range of techniques in their making and construction including fine printing, photography and digital production. She has said that her aim is to develop visual narratives as a new way of reading. To achieve this she often constructs continuous visual sequences through the book form that may also embody text. A further distinctive feature of her books is the focus on physical place and the natural environment as the prime source for the content and development of her working practice. She has also created books for commercial publication an example is *Unravelling the ripple*, Pocketbooks, 2001.

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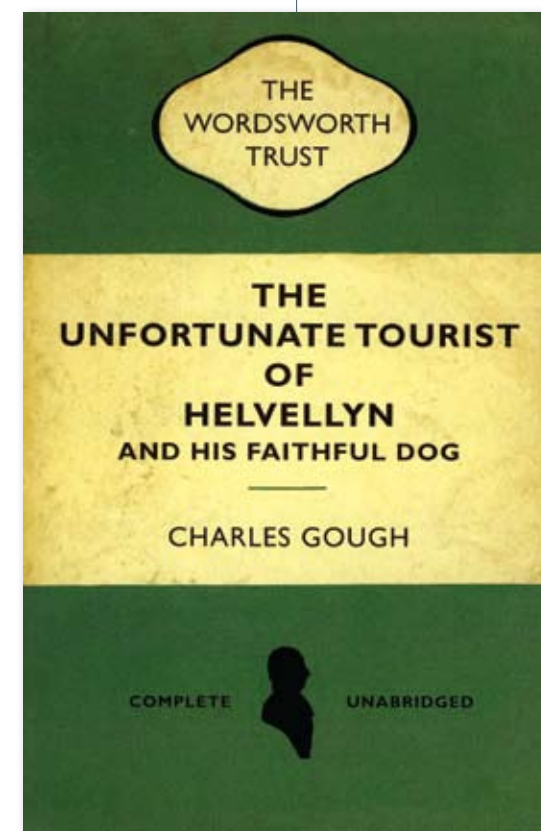
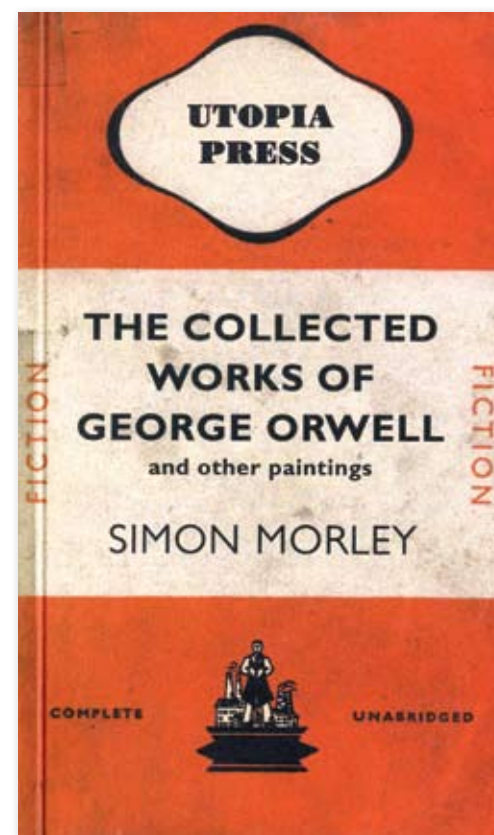
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Simon Morley

Simon Morley has been making books since 1998 under the imprint of Utopia Press. He sees his books as an intrinsic part of his broader practice as an artist, such as paintings based on book covers and title pages. Morley explores the interaction between word and image, memory and cultural identity. Sometimes the books he produces straddle the fine line between artists' book and catalogue, being published as a part of broader exhibition projects and referencing the themes and works within the exhibition. In particular Morley explores and appropriates the history of British modernist book design, drawing for example on such classics as the Penguin Book covers of the 1930's to 1950's. He often incorporates the foxing and other signs of ageing within the new design, evoking a sense of time passing.

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Student work

The Artists' Books Collection also includes books created or designed by School of Art staff. Amongst them is the contemporary artist Simon Morley, as whose work is described above.

In addition we acquire a range of books by students from the final year degree shows. Recent acquisitions have included books by Amy Hopkins, Hilda Vaughan, Celia Warnants and Taeko Kubono. Their work encompasses a variety of formats, materials and techniques. Each individual's approach is illustrated through the realisation of a concept linked to content and their unique presentation.



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Using the Artists' Books Collection

All of the works in the Artists' Books Collection are catalogued, classified and indexed on the University of Southampton Library's online catalogue known as WebCat. You may find them by searching using the keywords "artist's books", by artists' name, book title or publisher.

To find related journal articles and exhibition catalogues you will need to use databases such as *Art Abstracts* or *ArtBibliographies Modern*, accessible on the library website at www.soton.ac.uk/library under the resources tab.

In addition many artists and publishers have websites, a selection of these with internet links are available on our website. You may also see artists' books at the National Art Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London and at the Tate Library & Archive based at Tate Britain, London.

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