

SCULPTURAL AND ARTIST BOOKS

69 Smith Street Gallery, Fitzroy October 19 - November 6, 2011



Marianne Little

IAPMA, the International Association of Hand Papermakers and Paper Artists is celebrating its 25th birthday this year with a range of activities.

When I first heard of the funding available for this occasion, I realized it provided an opportunity to do something I had been building towards for some years - an international exhibition of Sculptural and Artists Books in Melbourne.

Despite all the hassles, one of the great joys of such a venture is unwrapping and seeing so many books in one place that can be revisited often. For me this is an invaluable opportunity to really get to know the books on intimate terms. This chance for in-depth appreciation is welcomed by many in fact. It is also an opportunity for a wider audience to be introduced to the notion of the Artist Book and to view a large selection of works of international standard.

Over fifty IAPMA members expressed an interest in participating, more than half from European countries. The range of books is very diverse and includes installation books, hanging prayer books, wall books, miniature books, a poetry book and many highly sculptural books.

One of the aims of the exhibition is to show the diversity and scope of Sculptural and Artist Books and this exhibition should go some way towards achieving that aim. Another goal is to get more people involved in making books.



Usually Artist Books have some reference to what we know of as a 'book' in having pages of some kind and being bound in some form. The pages may be much reduced, free form in shape or with relief work. They can be quite sculptural or simply fit together in some way. As to the binding, this can include a wide range of approaches: a box to contain the pages; bound as in a scroll; or a sewn binding.

This page, Top: PAPER PULP FICTION 8 GENIUS GENES by Priska Reidl (Austria); Page 1 is shown with book cover, also shown above top in closed format. Above, A MATERIALISED MENTAL SPACE by Beatrix Mapalagama (Austria). At left, HAUTSCHWINGEN by Helene Tschacher (German).