Layered Places: Artists' Books by Kyoko Matsunaga

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Artists’ Books Online

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Project Overview

- Create an online exhibit to highlight Artists’ Books
- Expand exposure to the artist and Artist’s Book Collection
- Connect with organizations to promote exhibit
Challenges

- Interpretation
- Copyright

But most of all:
Solutions

- Creativity
- Utilizing Experts
- Involving the Artist
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Introduction

The University of Michigan's Art Architecture, and Engineering Library's Special Collections presents three Artists' Books by Kyoko Matsunaga. The similar themes of these three works demonstrate how Artists' Books can be used to convey complex ideas about place.

Whether real or imagined, Matsunaga's books create immersive places and despite their small size, they transport the viewer to a place of her making. For Matsunaga, Artists' Books, are a chance to "reassemble [my] memories and give them new meaning. It is like finding a constellation." In addition to memory, her work often focuses on place because, "Any place has personal and social memories and I'm interested in the multi-layered aspect of place." By turning the page to see a half hidden image or rotating the book to see the next subject to jump across the stones, Matsunaga reconstructs her memories to form ideas about place and perception. She compiles and configures memories of places to create new experiences. Matsunaga's books converge many memories of a single location and layer them to form a distinctly different place.

Curated by This research project was completed by Maggie Johnson as part of the Michigan Library Scholars summer internship at the University of Michigan Library.
Lessons Learned

- Constraints can inspire creative solutions
- Project management
- Take time to:
  - Learn programs
  - Research
  - Write
Next Step: Outreach

- Creating a plan other exhibits can use
Thank you!