



Pressed Letters: Fine Printing in New Zealand since 1975

30 August – 24 September / Central Library Peterborough

Pressed Letters: Fine Printing in New Zealand since 1975 brings to light the achievements of New Zealand's leading letterpress printers and emphasises the collaborative nature that often exists between printers, poets and artists in the production of finely crafted, hand-printed books.

During the 1970s the printing industry worldwide purged itself of the last vestiges of letterpress printing technologies – technologies that had changed little since the invention of the printing press and movable type by Johannes Gutenberg in the mid-1450s. As a result, obsolete letterpress printing equipment became available and affordable for the private press movement. This was certainly the case in New Zealand, where one of the most notable presses to be established in the 1970s was Alan Loney's *Hawk Press* with which he began producing quality designed and printed limited edition books by contemporary New Zealand poets.

Other New Zealand private presses of note have followed in Loney's footsteps, including Auckland's *Pear Tree Press* and *Puriri Press*, Wellington's *Fernbank Studio*, Dunedin's *Frayed Frisket Press*, and *Homeprint* in Feilding, all of which are still printing today. Bob Gormack's *Nag's Head Press*

and Leo Bensemann's *Huntsbury Press*, although no longer operating, have left a legacy of beautifully designed and printed books.

New Zealand's university private presses – *Wai-te-ata*, *Holloway* and *Otakou* respectively at Victoria, Auckland and Otago universities – have also made significant contributions to New Zealand's private press movement, actively encouraging and engaging printers to work at their presses. The *Otakou Press* in particular is notable for its annual Printers in Residence programme, which provides invaluable opportunities for letterpress printers throughout New Zealand and Australia to produce hand-printed publications in collaboration with poets and artists.

What sets the books in this exhibition apart from commercial printing and publication is the care and skill with which they have been produced. These are hand-crafted objects and their production has involved firsthand input from the printers, the poets and the artists involved.

Peter Vangioni

Curator, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu

Case 1

1.

Joanna Margaret Paul

Imogen: Poems by Joanna Margaret Paul 1978

Hawk Press, Days Bay. Designed and printed by Alan Loney. Collection Christchurch City Libraries

2.

Rachel McAlpine and Michael Smither

Thirteen Waves 1986

Homeprint, Feilding. Designed and printed by John and Allison Brebner. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, gift of Jim Barr and Mary Barr

3.

Another Twenty-Seven Listed Publications from the Nag's Head Press: Numbers 93 to 119 2002

Nag's Head Press, Christchurch. Designed and printed by Bob Gormack. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, Peter Dunbar collection

4.

Peter Bland

Primitives: Poems by Peter Bland (frontispiece by Grant Tilley) 1979

Wai-te-ata Press, Wellington. Designed and printed by students from the Department of English, Victoria University. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu

5.

Bzou: A Tale from the French

(frontispiece by Leo Bensemann) 1979

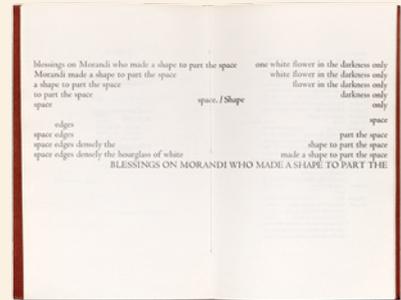
Huntsbury Press, Christchurch. Designed and printed by Leo Bensemann. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, presented by the Bensemann Family

6.

Bartolomeo Vanzetti

A letter from Bartolomeo Vanzetti to his friend's son Dante Sacco from the Death House, Massachusetts State Prison: 7/4/17 – seven years, four months, seventeen days 1975

Huntsbury Press, Christchurch. Designed and printed by Leo Bensemann and Max Hailstone. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, presented by the Bensemann Family



1. Imogen: Poems by Joanna Margaret Paul



5. Bzou: A Tale from the French

Case 2

7.

William Sutton
**The Scott Memorial Windows,
Christchurch Cathedral** 1983

Templar Press, Christchurch. Designed and printed by William Sutton. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, presented by William Sutton

8.

Bill Manhire and Andrew Drummond
DAWN/WATER 1979

Hawk Press, Eastbourne. Designed and printed by Alan Loney. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu

9.

Ian Wedde
Pathway To The Sea
(cover design by Ralph Hotere) 1975

Hawk Press, Taylors Mistake. Designed and printed by Alan Loney. Collection Christchurch City Libraries

10.

Peter Olds and Kathryn Madill
Skew Whiff: Poems by Peter Olds

2011

Otakou Press, Dunedin. Designed and printed by John Denny. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu

11.

Michele Leggot and Gretchen Albrecht
Journey to Portugal 2006

Holloway Press, Auckland. Designed by the artist and printed by Tara McLeod. Chine collé images executed by Elizabeth Steiner in collaboration with the artist. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu

12.

Ruth Dallas and Alan Loney
Open Sky 2008

Otakou Press, Dunedin. Designed and printed by Alan Loney. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu

13.

Bill Manhire and Ralph Hotere
PINE 2004

Otakou Press, Dunedin. Designed and printed by Brendan O'Brien. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu

14.

Max Gimblett
**Searchings: selections from the
artist's Journals chosen and arranged
by Alan Loney** 2005

Holloway Press, Auckland. Printed by Tara McLeod. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, presented by Alan Loney

15.

Robert Creeley and Max Gimblett
The Dogs of Auckland 1998

Holloway Press, Auckland. Designed by Alan Loney, printed by Alan Loney and Natasha Herman. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu, presented by Max Gimblett

Case 3

Prime: 7 Poets from Australia & New Zealand 2010

Otakou Press, Dunedin. Designed and printed by Caren Florance. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu

16.

Vincent O'Sullivan Untitled

17.

Stephen Edgar Sight Reading

18.

Michael Harlow The Piano's Birthday

19.

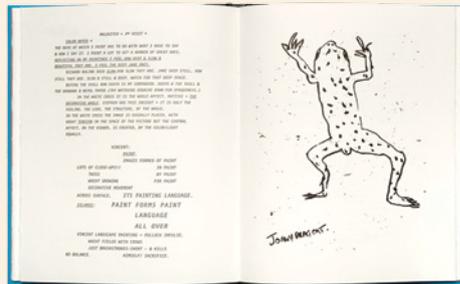
Robert Adamson The Sibyl's Avenue

20.

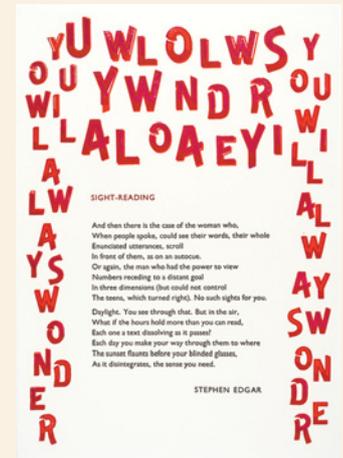
Les Murray At The Opera



11. Journey to Portugal



14. Searchings: selections from the artist's Journals chosen and arranged by Alan Loney



17. Sight Reading

Case 4

21.

Pip Culbert, Jenny Bornholdt
and Gregory O'Brien

Air Pocket 2004

Fernbank Studio, Wellington. Designed and
printed by Brendan O'Brien. Private collection,
Christchurch

22.

Joanna Margaret Paul
The Cherry Now 2001

Fernbank Studio, Wellington. Designed and
printed by Brendan O'Brien. Private collection,
Christchurch

23.

Geoff Cochrane and Brendan O'Brien
Nine Poems 2002

Fernbank Studio, Wellington. Designed and
printed by Brendan O'Brien. Private collection,
Christchurch

24.

Jenny Bornholdt and Mari Mahr
Two Walk in Paris 2007

Fernbank Studio, Wellington. Designed and
printed by Brendan O'Brien. Private collection,
Christchurch

25.

Gregory O'Brien
Winter I Was 2000

Fernbank Studio, Wellington. Designed and
printed by Brendan O'Brien. Private collection,
Christchurch

26.

Josephina O'Brien
**Hello Mr Tomorrow: A Book of
the Year** 2009

Fernbank Studio, Wellington. Designed and
printed by Brendan O'Brien. Private collection,
Christchurch

27.

Brendan O'Brien
Where is Carlo? 2002

Fernbank Studio, Wellington. Designed and
printed by Brendan O'Brien. Private collection,
Christchurch

28.

Samuel Marsden and Charles Darwin
Christmas in New Zealand 2011

Frayed Frisket Press, Dunedin. Designed and
printed by John Holmes. Private collection,
Christchurch

29.

**The Trevor Dagbottom Library
Acquisitions** 1990

Cock and Bull Press, Christchurch. Illustrated,
designed and printed by Ed Cutler. Collection
Ferrymead Printing Society, Christchurch

30.

Specimens of Wood Type 2001

Pear Tree Press, Auckland. Designed and
printed by Tara McLeod. Robert and Barbara
Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch
Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu

31.

Brian Gregory and Richard
McWhannell

In Winter Vineyards: Poems 1999

Pear Tree Press, Auckland. Designed and
printed by Tara McLeod. Robert and Barbara
Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch
Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu

Pear Tree Press posters

Ready MM 2011

Fog H 2009

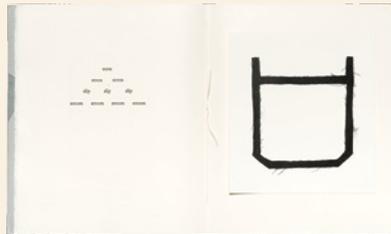
F & X TYPO Design 2011

El Lissitzky: The Elements of Letters 2011

Designed and printed by Tara McLeod at Pear Tree Press, Auckland. Robert and Barbara Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu



10. Skew Whiff: Poems by Peter Olds



21. Air Pocket



F & X TYPO Design

Cover: F & X TYPO Design (detail) 2011.
Designed and printed by Tara McLeod at
Pear Tree Press, Auckland. Robert and Barbara
Stewart Library and Archives, Christchurch
Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu

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