

For release June 1, 2012

STARTING FROM NOTHING

What

An exhibition of artist's books, prints and collages by Minneapolis artist Jody Williams

When

Thursday, September 6, 2012 – Saturday, October 13, 2012
Gallery hours: Thursday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 pm
and by appointment

Reception

Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Free and open to the public

Where

Form+Content Gallery
Whitney Square Building
210 North 2nd Street, Suite 104
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Info

Gallery: 612/436-1151
Howard Oransky: 651/592-1841
HYPERLINK "mailto:formandcontent@gmail.com" formandcontent@gmail.com
HYPERLINK "http://www.formandcontent.org" <http://www.formandcontent.org>

Description

(Minneapolis, MN) – Form+Content Gallery presents ***Starting from Nothing***, an exhibition of artist's books, prints, and collages by Jody Williams.

Jody Williams has been taking photographs of nothing, or next to nothing, for decades. Until several years ago she hadn't realized that many of her photographs were images without subjects: no objects, creatures, or focal points, just simple horizon lines where rocks, sand, grass, water, and sky meet each other. She began adding more consciously to her collection of nothing, and decided to use it as the starting point for a new body of work, to be presented in her second solo exhibition at the gallery.

"Searching through photo albums, computer discs, and hard drives, I was overwhelmed to find over 300 photographs of basically nothing, including several from my first camera at age 10. Wondering where to start, I printed them all out and began sorting. Visual and conceptual categories emerged: ephemeral images of mist and clouds; things that are not really things, such as shadows and reflections; emptiness represented by holes or impressions; disappearing light and approaching darkness; infinitesimal fields of sand and grass; and evidence of things no longer there, such as footprints and bare trees. I began reading and writing about nothing, thinking about voids and vacancies, black holes, empty space, absences, things gone missing, utter silence, and the loss of meaning. Rather than finding bleakness in nothing, I found it to be an inspiring, evocative, and powerful concept." -Jody Williams

For the first series using *nothing* for content, Williams chose five photographs and added a layer of linear elements and text by printing an etched copper plate onto archival inkjet prints on Japanese paper. Thirteen other images inspired a series of collages, each featuring a photograph on Japanese paper, embossed typewritten text, a postage stamp depicting nothing, and a drawing created with tiny holes from a needle.

Some of the images seemed to go together in pairs of panoramas and details, not necessarily from the same location. These pairs were collected into five artist's books: *Light, Water, Grass, Crystal, and Rock*, produced as a one-of-a-kind series, as well as a set of limited edition miniature books. Another limited edition artist's book, *Next to Nothing*, will also be previewed in the exhibition. It does not exist as of this press release, which seems oddly appropriate.

Press Images: Image list attached

Artist Biography

Jody Williams lives in Minneapolis, where she publishes artist's books under the name Flying Paper Press and teaches at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and the Minnesota Center for Book Arts. She received a BFA from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and an MFA in printmaking from the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. Her work is in the collections of the Walker Art Center, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minnesota Historical Society, and many other museums and libraries in the United States, Canada, and Europe. She has participated in over 200 exhibitions nationally and internationally.

Williams' honors include fellowships, grants and awards from the Jerome Foundation, the Minnesota Craft Council, the Minnesota Center for Book Arts and the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. She has held residencies at the

Frans Masereel Printmaking Center (Kasterlee, Belgium), ArtPark (Lewiston, New York), Women's Studio Workshop (Rosendale, New York), and the Carleton College Library (Northfield, Minnesota). In 2008 she received the inaugural Minnesota Book Artist Award from the Minnesota Book Awards and the Minnesota Center for Book Arts.

Williams' website: HYPERLINK "http://www.flyingpaperpress.com"
www.flyingpaperpress.com

Mission Statement

Form+Content Gallery will nurture diverse artistic practice and thoughtful dialogue. We value art as a catalyst for critical thinking. We value integrity and the artistic process. We aspire to link personal expression to broader social contexts. Form+Content Gallery is dedicated to moving the definitions and practice of culture forward in new and lively ways. Suggestions and ideas for cultural partnerships and programs are welcome.

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