

Butterfly Press  
de\*zine play\*house  
Epistlepoetry  
Lily's Book  
evidence: do not tamper



# “non-traditional” Book Design

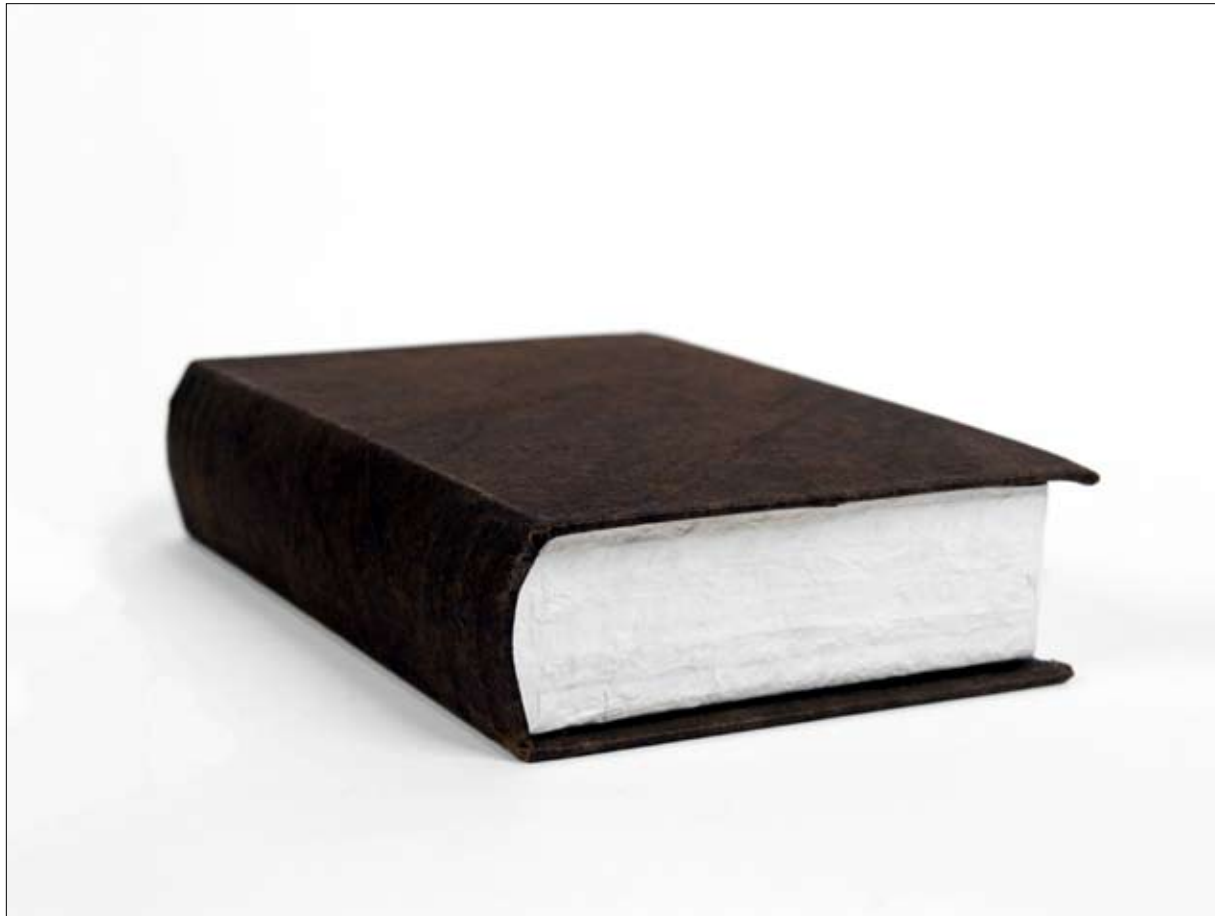
Melissa Duckworth



## Book as Art: “Butterfly Press”

2006. This book came to fruition in response to a quote by bookmaker Keith Smith, who questioned where the definitive definition of a book was. Where was the line between a stack of papers, for instance, and a book? *Is it the binding that transforms a text into a “book”?*

Materials for this project included a *hand-made Cherry flower press*, pressed and dried *wildflowers*, *found papers*, and *original poetry*. The exterior book box itself is constructed from handmade *Walnut* and *Textile* paper acquired from Hollander’s Fine Papers (Ann Arbor, MI).



## 'Zine: "de\*zine play\*house"

2005. *de\*zine play\*house* was the culminating project in a zine making class which I took in my **final undergraduate semester** at Eastern Michigan University. The reading and unfolding process of this zine were interconnected so that as you moved through the text, you were **physically moving through the book**, and metaphorically moving through a theatre.

Materials for this project included a **laser printed and hand-assembled, folded zine, paper-doll inserts, and o-ring binding.**







*epistlepoetry*

IN YOUR EYES YOUR BREATH IN HAND

## Chapbook: “epistlepoetry: to you with toothbrush in hand...”

2006. *Epistlepoetry* is a collection of original poems, printed in a limited edition and hand-covered with soft white muslin. The cover construction requires the reader to pause, taking time to “undress” the book before entering the text. This helps to put the reader into an optimal state of mind for approaching this particular text (best read in a quiet, peaceful, contemplative, intimate state).

Materials for this book included a muslin cover, pink ribbon, handmade papers with flockprinted muslin scraps, and butterfly clasp closure.



## Altered Book: “Lily’s Book”

2007. Originally titled “Woman vs. Man’s Best Friend”, this book was created for the Birmingham Library / BBAC’s Altered Book Exhibition. Discarded library books were provided to Cranbrook MFA candidates to participate in the exhibition. I found a leather-bound dog training book which struck me as funny since, in my experience as a dog-owner, the book was highly likely to get chewed due to the material.

I let my 3-year-old Australian Cattle Dog loose on the book, and recorded her “altering process” in night vision. The book was then painstakingly reconstructed, and the video accompanied the patched-up book in the BBAC’s exhibition.

Materials for this book included the discarded library book, acetate inclusions, and video.



(stills from the video)





## Altered Chapbook: “evidence: do not tamper”

2008. *evidence* is a chapbook containing 1 original poem (10 pages in length) titled “Capacocha”. The poem juxtaposes our fascination with mummified children to the horrific child abductions in the news at the time. The chapbooks were created with the intent of being altered (making them different from a “standard” altered book project). They were buried for a period of three months in the fall. The books were excavated before the ground froze, and carefully cleaned/restored to be presented in their “final” form with detritus in an acetate case.

Materials for this book included limited edition chapbook, acetate case, and detritus (such as ribbons, dried flowers, discarded scraps, etc.).



(book interior)





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