

HABITAT artists' books

Sea & Sky, Swim & Fly

Sea & Sky, Swim & Fly folds Raven, Pelican, Wasp, and Salmon together in the tent of life. We greet our relations in the wonder of being.

Turkish fold map in an envelope; letterpress printed with photopolymer plates and carved linoleum on Rives heavyweight and Zanders elephant hide papers

ARTIST:

Casey Gardner

Berkeley, CA

setinmotionart.com

WRITER:

David Romtvedt

Buffalo, WY

davidromtvedt.com



Artist's Statement

Casey Gardner is a book artist and printmaker living in Berkeley, CA. She writes, draws, prints and binds her own limited edition, letterpress-printed artist books with Set in Motion Press. On page surfaces she sees endless possibilities to convey her multilayered narratives in space, movement and time. Through stories, maps, and imagery she explores the interior realms of humans in connection with the natural world. In her mapping, Gardner graphically reflects the interior journeys we traverse in exploring the natural world. Her texts often examine the interchange of scientific understanding and human meaning. Extensive research is integral to Gardner's artistic alchemy. She integrates knowledge gleaned in research into visually representative contexts of language and metaphor. In these poetic graphics, she engages the space of the page with language, illustrative and diagrammatic elements.

Artist's Biography

Casey Gardner has a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Colorado University, Boulder, CO, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design and Printmaking from California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Grand Prize for Ink Press Repeat from Wayne University, NJ; Curator's Award for Visual Story Creation from the Artery in Sacramento CA; Librarian's Choice Award by the University of Denver CO; and Emerging Artist

award by the University of Washington, Seattle; Gardner has twice been a Finalist for Minnesota Center for the Book Award, Minneapolis, MN. Her books are featured in published books and journals and can be found in over sixty collections throughout the United States, Canada and abroad, including Yale University, Stanford University, Rhode Island School of Design, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, and the Library of Congress.

Writer's Statement

Sea and Sky, Swim and Fly is a collaboration between the book artist Casey Gardner and the writer David Romtvedt. Invited individually to take part in Habitat: Artists Books, we were told that the show would feature collaborative work from twelve teams. Or maybe we were pairs not teams. Or partners. Temporary duos in the pursuit of something beyond the individual. Casey lives and works in Berkeley, California while David is in Buffalo, Wyoming—in many ways the political and social ends of an American spectrum in which we grow ever more distant from one another.

From the moment we met we knew we wanted to create something driven by delight and by complete collaboration. That meant letting go for only in letting go of what we might do individually could delightfully inhabit what we made. Inhabit led us to the theme of the show: Habitat, a place that supports life as we would try to support life in our work.

We started with Zoom meetings after which we met in person during October of 2021 and April of 2022 to work together at Casey's Set in Motion Press. We tossed words at one another, imagined images, decided each of us would draw, each of us would write. Casey suggested using a paper structure known as the Turkish Map Fold. It's a form that can stand for shelter, that can expand and turn, that allows for discovery, and that unfolded can even be displayed flat on a wall. Of course, to do that, you need two copies so both sides can be seen at once—inside and outside, front and back, up and down. It's never clear which is which.

Serendipitously, each of us had printed with Vandercook cylinder relief presses—David too had a background in calligraphy and the book arts—so we could talk freely and easily about design and printing—the technical language of a lost era that for us remains present.

Together we sought to break down barriers between various kinds of art and making. It was a little scary—for a writer to draw, for a visual artist to write. And exciting too. A metaphor for what we hope collaboration can mean in a broader sense—finding our way toward one another both in human society, and in our relationships with our nonhuman sisters and brothers. Our collaboration reflects our sense of the cycles of life and our gratitude for the gifts that come when we treat our work and each other with kindness and respect.

Writer's Biography

David Romtvedt was born in Portland, Oregon and raised in southern Arizona. He received a BA in American Studies from Reed College, an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and was a graduate fellow in Folklore and Ethnomusicology at the University of Texas at Austin. He has worked as a carpenter, tree planter, truck driver, bookstore clerk, assembly line operative, letter carrier, blueberry picker, ranch hand, musician, and professor in the MFA program for writers at the University of Wyoming. His most recent books are *No Way: an American Tao Te Ching* (LSU, 2021) and *Gernikako arbola/The Tree of Gernika*, translations with Xabier Irujo of the nineteenth century Basque poet Joxe Mari Iparragirre (University of Nevada Center for Basque

Studies, 2020). Past books include the novel *Zelestina Urza in Outer Space*, the short fiction collections *Crossing Wyoming* and *Free and Compulsory for All*, the essay collections *Buffalotarrak: An Anthology of the Basques of Buffalo, Wyoming* and *Windmill: Essays from Four Mile Ranch*, and the poetry titles *Dilemmas of the Angels*, *Some Church*, *Certainty*, *How Many Horses*, *Moon*, and *A Flower Whose Name I Do Not Know* which was selected for the National Poetry Series. A recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in poetry, NEA trinational fellowship in music and poetry, the Pushcart Prize, and the Wyoming Governor's Arts Award, Romtvedt served for seven years as poet laureate of Wyoming.

With the Fireants, Romtvedt performs dance music of the Americas and has released three recordings, *Bury my Clothes*, *Ants on Ice*, and *It's Hot (about three weeks a year)*. With Ospa, he has recorded *Hori da (That's It!)*, traditional and contemporary Basque music from Buffalo, Wyoming.

Romtvedt has served as the Centrum Foundation's folk arts manager and been a staff musician at the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes, Pinewoods Family Week, Puget Sound Guitar Workshop, the Smithsonian National Folklife Festival, Sierra Swing, and the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering.