

HABITAT artists' books

Future Tense

Habitat is a word that can be microscopic or as huge as a galaxy; it is physical and emotional; it has meaning on the individual and collective whole.

Broadside; letterpress print from found objects

ARTIST:

Marnie Powers-Torrey

Park City, UT

bookartsprogram.org

WRITER:

Val Pexton

Laramie, WY



Artist's Statement

As a maker, Powers-Torrey places equal value on process and product. The aesthetic and concept of a piece are inherent to its mode of manufacture, materiality, and the space and time in which it's made. Through her studio practice—the investigation of materials & methods— Powers-Torrey finds and creates meaning steered by the processes she chooses to employ. Through making, she discovers the artifact. Through the artifact, she communicates intention. Her concepts are driven by the everyday— both the routine and the extraordinary, experienced through the multiple modalities of the real and the virtual, the direct, and the mediated. She has learned how critical it is to integrate making into her busy life, and for her, the assembly of materials and exploration of ideas is synonymous with living.

Artist's Biography

Marnie Powers-Torrey holds an MFA in Photography from the University of Utah and a BA in English and Philosophy from Boston College. Marnie is an Associate Librarian at the Marriott Library where she serves as Director of the Book Arts Program & Red Butte Press. She is the faculty mentor for book arts designations and teaches letterpress, bookmaking, artists' books, and other courses for the Book Arts Program and elsewhere. Marnie identifies primarily as a book artist, and her book work is held in collections nationally.

Writer's Biography

Val Pexton is a Wyoming native. She earned a degree in Studio Art from Humboldt State University and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Wyoming where she currently is a lecturer in the English and Creative Writing Programs. As a fiction writer, she explores the importance of place on the stories that people tell one another. Lately, she has been exploring flash and microfiction forms.

Writer's Statement

With "Future Tense," we explore our planet as habitat, as well as human beings' understanding, or otherwise, of our place in that habitat. The text, a piece of microfiction, addresses how, at this moment in time, we seem incapable of understanding that habitat changes, and that we humans might have to change as well.

Content of text included in artwork

Future Tense

She's heard that the axis of the Earth is shifting. Will trees upend? The oceans spill and slosh? Perhaps mountains will invert, their sharp tops piercing deep into the molten center of the planet.

Should she start hoarding water? Quit her job?

Is she frightened or looking forward to this future?