

Ivorypress presents the panel discussion

## BOOKS BEYOND ARTISTS

ARTISTS' BOOKS IN THE 21ST CENTURY:  
CULT OBJECTS?



*I Want to Spend the Rest of My Life Everywhere...* Damien Hirst, 2005 | Photo: Ramiro Casal. Courtesy Ivorypress

**Dates:** 24 February 2015 at 12:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Ivorypress Space c/ Comandante Zorita, 48 Madrid

**Participants:** **Irma Boom**, typographer and graphic designer; **Peter Sacks**, artist and professor of poetry at Harvard University (USA); **Rowan Watson**, head of Collections Development in the National Art Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum (London, United Kingdom). The discussion will be moderated by **Elena Ochoa Foster**, founder and CEO of Ivorypress.

On 24 February 2015 the exhibition *Books beyond Artists: Words and Images*, dedicated to artists' books and their role in the history of art until the present time. The show is curated by Elena Ochoa Foster in collaboration with the Ivorypress team, will open at Ivorypress. Parallel to the exhibition there will be a panel discussion entitled 'Artists' books in the 21st century: cult objects?'

## Irma Boom

Irma Boom lives and works in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She studied graphic design at the AKI Art Academy in Enschede and nowadays she works as a graphic designer specialised in making books. After graduation she worked for five years at the Dutch Government Publishing and Printing Office in The Hague. In 1991 she founded the Irma Boom Office in Amsterdam and since 1992 she has been a senior critic at Yale University in the US and gives lectures and workshops worldwide.

She has designed and edited more than three hundred books, 100 of which are part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York (MoMA). Particularly worth of mention is the *SHV Think Book 1996-1896* (1996), a 2136-page book commissioned by SHV Holdings in Utrecht, in which she worked for five years, and that was published in English and Chinese.

Her design for the book *Weaving as Metaphor* (2006), by American artist Sheila Hicks was selected as 'The Most Beautiful Book in the World' by the Leipzig Book Fair. She is also the author of *Colour Based on Nature* (2012), *Handbook of California Design, 1930-1965* (2013), *Hello World* (2013), *Irma Boom: The Architecture of the Book* (2013) and *Irma Boom: Biography in Books* (2010) among others.

She has been the recipient of many awards for her book designs and was the youngest ever laureate to receive the prestigious Gutenberg prize for her complete oeuvre. She has also been awarded with the Johannes Vermeer Award (the Dutch state prize for the arts) by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science in 2014. That same year Queen Beatrix awarded her The Huisorde van Oranje Medal of Honor for Art and Science. Boom's works has been exhibited in museums and institutions such as the Institut Néerlandais in Paris, the Museum für Gestaltung in Zürich, the University of Amsterdam and the Museum of Modern Art in New York (MoMA).

## Rowan Watson

Rowan Watson lives and works in London, United Kingdom. Head of the Collections Development of the National Art Library in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. He has curated several exhibitions, such as *Blood on Paper*, in collaboration with Elena Ochoa Foster, that was shown at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 2008.

After finishing his post-graduate work on Angoulême and the Duchy of Aquitaine between the 11th and 13th centuries, he worked with the collections of the manuscript of the Senate House Library, the Giamorgan Archive Service and the National Art Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

He has published several studies on illuminated manuscripts, modern artists' books and the renaissance of the interest in medieval art in the 19th and 20th centuries. Some of his most celebrated works are *Western Illuminated Manuscripts* (2011) and *Illuminated Manuscripts: And Their Makers* (2003). He teaches the MA History of the Book at London's University's Institute of English Studies, part of the School of Advanced Study.

## Peter Sacks

Peter Sacks was born and raised in South Africa and now lives and works between Cambridge, Massachusetts and Normandy. He studied at Princeton, Oxford University—with a Rhodes grant—and Yale University. He taught at John Hopkins University until 1996 and currently teaches poetry at Harvard University.

Sacks has had solo exhibitions in museums and galleries such as Wade Wilson Art (Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA), Paul Rodgers (New York, USA) and Galerie Pièce Unique (Paris, France), as well as at FIAC Paris and the Bologna Art Fair. His works are part of the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum in

New York, The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, as well as many international private collections. He is currently represented by Robert Miller Gallery in New York.

Sacks is the author of five poetry books—*In These Mountains* (1986), *Promised Lands* (1990), *Natal Command* (1997), *O Wheel* (2000) and *Necessity* (2002)—as well as literary scholarship. His poems have also been published in relevant newspapers and magazines such as the *New Yorker*, the *New Republic*, *Boulevard* and *The Paris Review* among others.

He has also created several artists' books such as *Kafka: Der Prozess (The Trial): A Procession of Pages* (2014) or his *Diaries* made between 1990 and 2014, included in the exhibition *Books beyond Artists* at Ivorypress.

### **Elena Ochoa Foster**

Elena Ochoa Foster is a publisher. For more than twenty years, she held the position of Titular Professor of Psychopathology at the Complutense University of Madrid and until 2001 was Honorary Professor at King's College, London. Besides obtaining a Fulbright Scholarship to carry out postdoctoral studies at the University of Illinois the University of Los Angeles (UCLA), in the course of her academic career she has been visiting professor and has conducted research at numerous universities in Europe and in the United States. She has worked at Spanish public broadcasters TVE and Radio Nacional, and has been a regular contributor to various newspapers.

In 1996, Elena Ochoa Foster founded the Ivorypress publishing house. She directs the C Photo project, designed to promote photography and contemporary art through publications, exhibitions and academic and institutional support (Ivorypress has organised the creation of the Humanitas Visiting Professorships in Contemporary Art at the University of Oxford, among its other collaborations with different academic institutions). With the team at Ivorypress, she has curated international exhibitions such as *C on Cities* (10th Venice Biennale of Architecture, 2006), *Blood on Paper* (Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 2008) and *Real Venice* (54th Venice Biennale, 2011 and Somerset House, London, 2011). She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Mutual Art Trust and the Prix Pictet Photography Prize. She was president of the Tate International Council and Member of the Governing Board of the Tate Foundation between 2004 and 2008, as well as a trustee of the Isamu Noguchi Foundation. She serves as patron to several museums, foundations and international schools of contemporary art and photography.

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