



The Vandercook Book

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Museum Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10am-5pm **Admission:** Free
Location: 1324 West Clay Street, Houston, TX 77019 Tel: (713) 522-4652 Fax: (713) 522-5694
Web Address: www.printingmuseum.org

Reception and Gallery Talk with Barbara Henry on Friday, March 13 at 6pm

By far the most recognized name in the world of proof presses, the Vandercook will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2009. The company was started in Chicago in September 1909 by R.O. Vandercook. Designed to proof a page of type before being sent to the press, the earliest proof presses depended on a roller and the force of gravity to make an impression of type on paper. The Vandercook proof press built upon this technology to incorporate a carriage and cylinder that could be finely adjusted. Originally intended for commercial printshops, it comes as no surprise that as the printing industry steadily moved away from letterpress technology, these precision perfect machines fell into the hands of artists. Today, the Vandercook proof press is widely considered the ideal press for limited edition letterpress production.

In the summer of 2006, New York based letterpress printers, Barbara Henry and Roni Gross, began work on the Vandercook Book—a portfolio of specimens from contemporary letterpress masters, printed on their Vandercooks. Master Printers from around the country were invited to contribute a sample of their work and a description of their technique. Submissions represent the tremendous diversity of work facilitated by the Vandercook proof press. Printing surfaces include foundry type, monotype, wood type, photopolymer plates, linoleum, wood engraving, die-cutting, pressure printing and sandragraphs. Papers range from hand-made to commercial stock. Texts are poems, tracts, essays, specimens, alphabetic symbols, collages, and fields of color. The project represents a conversation across the medium of contemporary letterpress.

The Vandercook Book consists of 30 unbound folios, as well as essays by Master Printers: Barbara Henry, Fritz Klinke, Henry Morris, Paul Moxon, Michael Peich, and Perry Tymeson. Contributors include: Delphi Basilicato; Mare Blocker—MKimberly Press; Dean Bornstein—The Perpetua Press; Martha Chiplis; Johanna Drucker; Karla Elling—Mummy Mountain Press; Elsi Vassdal Ellis—Eve Press; Jules Remedios Faye—Stern & Faye Printers; Roni Gross; Barbara Henry—Harsimus Press; Tracy Honn; Peter Koch; Peter Kruty; Sara Langworthy; Ruth Lingen; Nancy Loeber; Daniel Mayer—The Nomadic Press; Paul Moxon—Fameorshame Press; Matt Neff & Christopher van Auken—The Common Press; Bonnie O’Connell—The Penumbra Press; Mary Phelan; Harry Reese—Turkey Press; John Risseeuw—Cabbagehead Press; Abigail Rorer—The Lone Oak Press; Katherine McCanless Ruffin—Shinola Press; Rugula Russell & CB Sherlock—Accordion Press Collaborations; Sara T. Sauers—Catstep Press; Gaylord Schanilec; Champe Smith—Imitation Pearl Press; Barbara Tetenbaum—Triangular Press

In conjunction with this exhibition, we have planned a full season of lectures, classes, and events. Please check our website at www.printingmuseum.org for details: Lecture Saturday, February 7 at 10am **Preserving the Material Construction of 19th Century Wood Type**; Workshop Saturday, February 28, 10am-4pm **Introduction to Letterpress Printing**; Workshop Saturday and Sunday, March 14-15 **Master Class with Barbara Henry: Poster Printing and Pochoir**; Workshop Saturday, May 9: 1pm-5pm **Printing with Photopolymer Plates**

The Museum of Printing History is funded in part by grants from the City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance.