BELONGING: a brief study on artists’ books and institutional classification

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What does it mean **TO BELONG**?

Where do **ARTISTS’ BOOKS** belong?

To whom do they belong?

How do institutions influence belonging?
What does it mean TO BELONG?

The Communications Circuit: a network of belonging

Figure 1. Robert Darnton. *The Communications Circuit*. (1982).
Artists’ Books: Examples

**Figure 2.** Collette Fu. (2009). *Ashima.*

**Figures 3, 4 and 5.** Gretchen E. Henderson. (2011-). *Galerie de Difformité.*
Artists’ Books: Examples

Figure 6. Xu Bing. (2000). *Tobacco Project (Red Book).*

Where do ARTISTS’ BOOKS belong?

- Galleries
- Libraries
- Archives
- Museums
To whom do ARTISTS’ BOOKS belong?

- Galleries
- Libraries
- Archives
- Museums

Readers!
How do institutions influence belonging?

Challenges for readers and institutions negotiating with artists’ books:
- Non-circulating, reference collections
- Closed stacks
- Minimal metadata
- Low-quality or no digital images in catalogue records
- Digital and information literacy skills
- Digital divide
- Collection care and preservation

Potential supportive projects:
- Open stacks shelving
- Tours and guided visits
- Outreach programs that bring collections into the community
- One-on-one consultations with staff
- Public exhibitions
- Websites for the collection
- Internet exhibitions
- User-friendly catalogues; detailed metadata and high-quality images
IMAGE SOURCES


Figure 2 Fu, Collette. (2009). *Ashima*. [artist’s book]. Retrieved from http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-7heeIaEkoXo/VK7N3zvtBYI/AAAAAAAADbc/amN6Cz8fvCw/s1600/49%22_Ashimasm.jpg

Figure 3 Henderson, Gretchen E. (2011 - ). *Galerie de Difformité* . [artists' book and web project]. Retrieved from https://www.facebook.com/115439468485228/photos/ pb.115439468485228.-2207520000.1426726507./236493259713181/?type=3&theater


Figure 8 Colin, Myriam. *Le Petit Chaperon [Little Red Riding Hood]*. After Warja Lavater. Photographed by Les Doigts Qui Revent (publisher). Retrieved from http://dpearson.typepad.com/a/6a0147e3e720c2970b01a73d8ad5d7970d-pi