How Artists and Libraries Can Work Together: A Model for Engagement

August 6, 2015 - December 4, 2015

DIRT?

Scientists, Book Artists, and Poets Reflect on Soil and Our Environment

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Healthy soils are the basis for healthy food production.

Soils are the foundation for vegetation which is cultivated or managed for feed, fibre, fuel and medicinal products.

Soils support our planet's biodiversity and they host a quarter of the total.
“In addition to scientific information, strategies for touching the soul and awakening the heart are proving necessary to promote and protect the health of the soil.”

Alexandria Toland, 2015
Collins Memorial Library Dirt? Exhibition
LAYERS IN TIME

Lucia Harrison, Ancient Forests of Frying Pan Creek

Suze Woolf, Rock Texture Book
Twelve Orders Twelve Verses - Jan Owen & Justine Owen
FROM FARM TO GARDEN

Deborah Greenwood, *The Land*

**Fresh Produce**

The soil
Fills the grooves in carrots
And my fingers

by Gerald Cawdell

Debbi Commodore, *Seductive Promises of Abundance*
HUMAN IMPACTS

Dorothy McCuistion, *How Often Do You?*
PLANNING

• Began a year in advance
• Why a Library?
  – Library Director
  – Staff Support
    • Graphic Design
    • Publicity
    • Inventory and Insurance
  – Cases and Exhibit Hardware
  – Secure Access with Long Hours
PLANNING

• Why collaborate with artists?
  – Draw in the Community
  – Provide Exhibition Ideas
  – Provide Curatorial Skills
  – Design and Install Exhibit
  – Take Down Exhibit and Return Work to Artists

• Exhibition engaged students, staff and faculty
• Exhibition engaged the community in the work of the college.
EXHIBIT DESIGN
Dirt? Scientists, Book Artists, and Poets Reflect on Soil and Our Environment

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DIRT?
Scientists, Book Artists, and Poets Reflect on Soil and Our Environment

An interdisciplinary exhibition featuring natural history specimens, artist books and poems selected from an international call for entries.
OPENING NIGHT
EARTH PIGMENTS WORKSHOP

- Natural Yard Care
- The Activist
- Clean in the Sea
- A Handful of Dirt
- Growing Wild
- Compost Stew

Activities:
- Grind/sieve/separate earth materials
- Watercolor Paint (layers, stencils, scraping)
- Tempera Paint (brush strokes)
- Fingernail Polish
• Exhibition Archive
• For more information:
  – On-line Catalog (Dirt? Collins Memorial Library)
  – Print Catalog (Dirt? at Blurb.com)
  – Curator: Lucia Harrison (harrisol@evergreen.edu)
  – Collins Library Director: Jane Carlin (jcarlin@pugetsound.edu)