

Lux Mentis, Booksellers

Lux Mentis specializes in fine press, fine bindings, and esoterica in all areas, books that have been treasured and will continue to be treasured. As a primary focus is the building and/or deaccessioning of private collections, our selections is diverse and constantly evolving. If we do not have what you are seeking, please contact us and we will strive to find it. All items are subject to prior sale. Shipping and handling is calculated on a per order basis. Please do not hesitate to contact us regarding terms and/or with any questions or concerns.

Gabby Cooksey

Gabby Cooksey is a Washington-based book artist and binder. She discovered during her first year at Columbus College of Art and Design that she wanted something 'else'. While spending time at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, she discovered 'books on books' and, specifically a book on binding, beautifully designed and executed, in full leather binding and exquisite tilting. To quote her, "This is *exactly* what I want to do."

In 2011 she attended the American Academy of Bookbinding in Telluride, CO and studied with Don Glaister. She then enrolled in the North Bennet Street School in Boston, MA (2012-14), graduating from their bookbinding program. Knowing she wanted to continue honing her skills, she convinced Don Gaister and his wife Suzanne Moore to accept her as an apprentice. The rest is history...

"I want people to open the book up *because* of the cover I put on it."

1. Cooksey, Gabby. **The Book of Penumbra.** Tacoma, WA: [Artist Book], 2016. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Black paper boards, grey lettering; hinged wooden box, inlaid metal coffin in lid, ribbon lift. 8vo. np [19pp]. Illus. (b/w with gilt plates). Numbered limited edition of 23. Fine in Fine Box.

Hardcover. (#9157) \$1,000.00

A book of small stories of death gods from around the world. "Death has always fascinated me because it



happens to all of us yet no one talks about it. I wanted to see what other cultures personified death as through myths and legends. The gods in this book are very hushed and for some, even if you speak the name, you'll be cursed. I wanted this

book to be shadows, to be played in the light. I chose a delicate paper so one could see through to the page behind it. The text is in all sorts of shapes because I wanted each story to represent the god being told about. For instance, Sedna is in the shape of drowning, Anubis is his eye, Mac is a pit with someone at the bottom. The borders are all plants, roots, and things found on the earth. Some represent death like the poppy, and the yew tree." [artist statement]

"These stories are told using pen and ink, then tidied up in Illustrator. Photopolymer plates were combined with

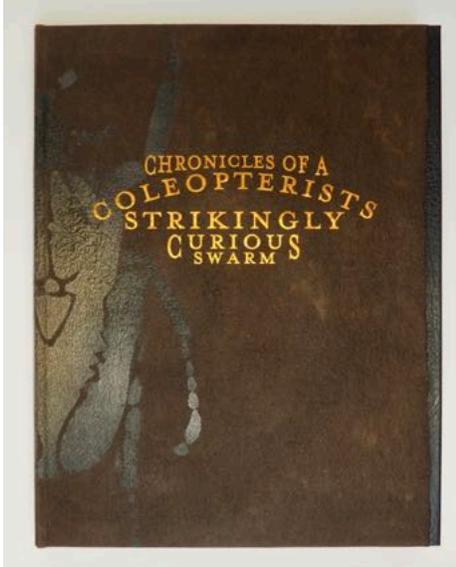


GABBY COOKSEY: BOOKS AND BINDINGS

handset Packard, then letterpress printed and hand colored." [colophon] Thai Mulberry Black and Tenju-jo Japanese Kozo. Photopolymer plates from sketches; handset metal type. Signed and numbered by the artist.

2. Cooksey, Gabby. **Chronicles of a Coleopterists Strikingly Curious Swarm [Variant].**

Tacoma, WA: Gabby Cooksey/ Springtide Press, 2018. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Brown cave paper covered boards, gilt



lettering, inlaid painted aluminum plates. 4to. np. (32pp). Limited edition of 26, this being AP2. Fine in Fine Dustjacket. Hardcover. (#11155) \$3,500.00

According to the artist, this mouthful of a title is meant to be just that... A Coleopterist is, of course, one who studies beetles and a swarm is a gathering of beetles. Gabby has "always been interested in these insects so researching them was a joy. The stories I made up are meant to feel true, and you question if you've heard of them before or not. This book is meant to feel precious but also rugged; I chose all the materials to withstand a beating like a field guide...". And yet, her exquisite sense of design and subtle and sophisticated craftsmanship is reflected throughout.



The book includes seven stories by Gabby and the rest by Edgar Allan Poe, Charles Darwin, Hans Christian Anderson, and Aesop's Fables. "These tales were told to me through whispered words from around the world and researched extensively through old tomes. I write to you now, my fellow believer in myths and legends, trying

to provide the truest rendition of these stories into your hands. May you find a beetle of your own, and one day, tell me its fanciful story." [from the author's preface notes]

There is a wonderful weight to the book and each leaf is lovely and heavy in hand...the book simply has great 'feel'. "The beetles are crafted out of embossing paper templates and photopolymer plates, stylized with a ball point pen and painted with alcohol ink on aluminum. The pages are Suede-tex paper painted with acrylic and methyl cellulose; the cover is cave paper. Mrs. Eave's text printed on photopolymer plates. I wrote 7 out of the 12 stories. Letterpress printed at Springtide Press with Jessica Spring in Tacoma, WA. Dedicated to Eli for our childhood of bugs and stories." [colophon]

This copy, AP #2, has a standard binding of the beetle book but includes a different form of text. Gabby was uncertain as to whether she wanted to letterpress directly on the leaves or on tipped in sheets. This copy is the only example with [more complex] mounted printed sheets, as the full edition was ultimately printed directly.



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3. Emerson, Ralph Waldo [text]; Cooksey, Gabby [art/printing/binding]. **Blight [Artist Book]**. Tacoma, WA, 2020. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Brown textured paper boards (by Hook Pottery Paper) in a modified case binding, letterpress printed with handset type on inkjet photo transfers,



silkscreen printed panels, and acrylic painted Kozuke paper (printing completed at Springtide Press with assistance from Jessica Spring); housed in an archival dropspine box. 4to. np. Illus. (color plates). Numbered limited edition of 28, this being 12. Signed by the artist. Fine in Fine Archival Box. Hardcover. (#10426) \$2,100.00

Quiet, sophisticated, and remarkably powerful, Gabby's newest work is an exquisite blend of book art and binding. Gabby has, from early in her career, gone beyond her roots in design binding, creating the text, art, and printing for several books now. Just as her design bindings push limits and explore possibilities, so does her art and print work. It is a remarkable evolution.

"Ralph Emerson wrote this poem, "Blight", in July of 1843. He spoke out on climate change and the ways we could shift course by not blindly following others. In describing his travels to Europe while writing on life and nature, Emerson said, "same faces under new caps and

jackets, another turn of the old kaleidoscope."
I took some liberties with Emerson's poem, surrounding his words with photographs captured at Owen Beach in Washington state on a rainy winter day in 2019. This public beach, in the middle of an urban old-growth forest, will close for a year beginning in fall of 2020 to mitigate the effects of climate change and rising sea levels. Emerson's words of anger and disappointment at environmental destruction only resonate more with our current climate of melting glaciers and raging fires. As we continue to twist the kaleidoscope, I remain optimistic we will find a way to rearrange these fragments and improve the view for future generations." [artist statement]

4. Emerson, Ralph Waldo [text]; Cooksey, Gabby [art/printing/binding]. **Blight [Artist Book/Design Binding]**. Tacoma, WA, 2020/2022. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Blue goat skin leather and brown paper hinges in a panel binding with hand sawn brass cut outs attached with 86 flush rivets, gilt lettering, brown paper pastedown and soft case [the design is an image of roots taken from the



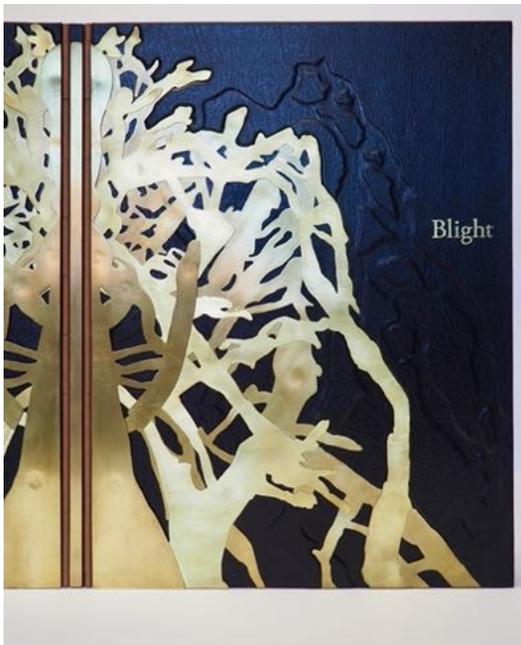


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N.B. Currently on tour as a Design Bookbinders UK competition award winner. Will be available for delivery in March of 2023.

text block and with added layers], letterpress printed with handset type on inkjet photo transfers, silkscreen printed panels, and acrylic painted Kozuke paper (printing completed at Springtide Press with assistance from Jessica Spring). 4to. np. Illus. (color plates). Numbered limited edition of 28. Signed by the artist. Unique copy. Fine in Fine Archival Box. Hardcover. (#11156) \$7,500.00

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5. Emerson, Ralph Waldo [text]; Cooksey, Gabby [art/printing/binding]. **Blight [Artist Book/Making Copy]**. Tacoma, WA, 2020. Limited Edition. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Brown textured paper boards (by Hook Pottery Paper) in a modified case binding, letterpress printed with handset type on inkjet photo transfers, silkscreen printed panels, and acrylic painted Kozuke paper (printing completed at Springtide Press with assistance from Jessica Spring); housed in an archival dropspine box. 4to. np. Illus. (color plates). Numbered limited edition of 28, this being AP1. Signed by the artist. Fine in Fine Archival Box. Hardcover. (#11157) \$4,250.00

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GABBY COOKSEY: BOOKS AND BINDINGS

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This copy a 'making copy' including AP #1 and also with test prints inside the binding and 2 variant binding concepts and 3 test prints in a drawer. Housed in a custom box.

6. Milkowski Dahlgren, Sarah; Cooksey, Gabby [binder]. **Little Book of Fae [Design Binding]**. Portland, ME, 2017/2020. Unique. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Bound in pale/tan goat skin, leather hinges and flyleaf/pastedown paper by Velma Bolyard, the wing is blue chicken feet skin, gold metal and abalone shell attached with the gold metal, in a case binding sewn in the style of montage sur onglets with hand sewn silk end-bands; custom clamshell box with ribbon pull; wing cover on box is chicken feet and gold metal. 64mo. np. Illus. (b/w plates). Fine in Fine Archival Box. Hardcover. (#9611) \$1,200.00



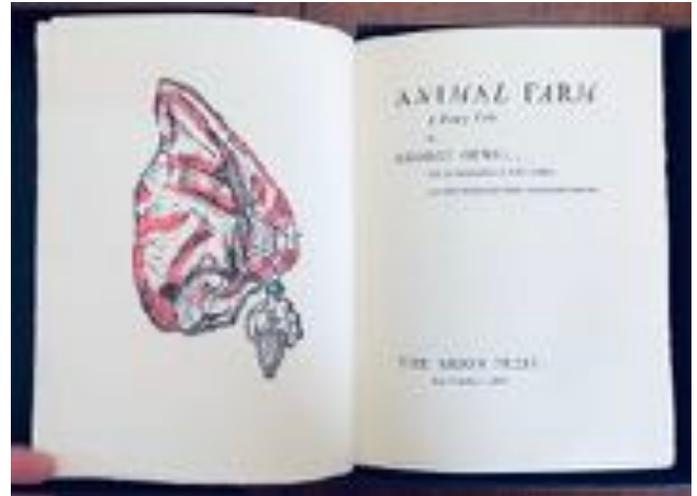
"When asked, why I do what I do it is really because I love it. There is nothing quite like holding a physical book, especially when the person who made it has spent so much time lovingly putting it together. Craft is important to show where I have come from (past binders), and the design is important because that's where I'm headed (myself as an artist). I design books in a peculiar



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and unexpected way that makes it enticing to hold/open. I think of my books as art that you can use." [Gabby Cooksey, on her work]



came from an illustration from inside the book by the artist, Jonathan Hammer. The image was perfect for my idea of what Animal Farm is about: cruelty, dual-image, and death." [artist statement]



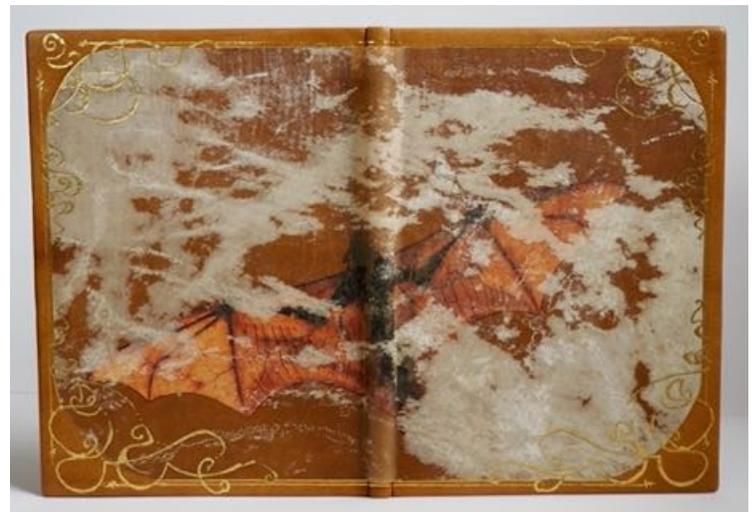
7. Orwell, George;
Stansky, Peter [Intro];
Hammer, Jonathan [art];
Cooksey, Gabby [binder].
**Animal Farm [Design
Binding]**. San Francisco,
CA: The Arion Press,
2013/2019. Limited
Edition. Tight, bright, and
unmarred. Bound in red

goatskin with a skin disease, leather hinges, sewn endbands, decorated head with acrylic paint, pig is blind tooled with a fool's tool then painted in with black acrylic, nose is strawberry paper, black leather and vellum onlays, mirror image of a pig with different shadows accentuated; black cloth clamshell box. 4to. 150pp. Illus. (color and b/w plates). Numbered limited edition, this being



121 of 300. Signed by the artist. Fine in Fine Archival Box. Hardcover. (#10180) \$3,200.00

"The image of the butchered pig's head



8. Rieke, Sialia; Cooksey, Gabby [binder]. **A Fable [Design Binding]**. Carpe Noctum Press, 2003/2018. Limited Edition/Unique. Tight, bright, and unmarred. Bound in tan goatskin with laced-in boards and Pergamena vellum set into the cover with gilt ornament corners, sewn in the style of montage sur onglets with hand sewn silk endbands, brown paper pastedowns and flyleaves with leather hinges. 4to. Illus. (color plates).



GABBY COOKSEY: BOOKS AND BINDINGS

Numbered
limited edition,
this being 24 of
27. Signed by the
author. Fine and
Fine Archival
Box. Hardcover.
(#10252)
\$2,000.00



"The book is an artist book by Sialia Rieke who recounts a story of an angel coming to earth and falling in love with a human. The bat is my interpretation of him flying to the woman on a cloudy day forming the heart breaking story that is soon to come." [Artist statement]



*Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.
Please do not hesitate to contact us with any
questions.*

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