



Sande Wascher-James

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*Represented by: Priscilla Juvelis Rare Books, Inc.,
Kennebunkport, ME*

BIOGRAPHY

Sande Wascher-James has been working with the book arts since the mid-nineties when she discovered that she could use all of the mediums she enjoyed working with in a format that varied greatly, and that had meaning: the book. Purposefully using techniques such as embroidery and beading, which are considered “women’s work”, to deal with issues of importance to most

women in book structures are one of the hallmarks of her work. The books are meant to be both held in the hand and to be read, and to be displayed in their sculptural format. She makes both one-of-a-kind books and small editions, usually no more than two editions per year due to the intensive labor involved in making them. Sande feels that the books need to be both artistically beautiful and have a text that is as powerful as the imagery.

Sande is a full-time studio artist whose work has been in many exhibitions and is held in both private and public collections, as well as in publications. She has been honored with awards for her work in exhibitions, and has work held by the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Yale, Harvard, Duke, University of Washington, among others.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I seem to always manage to do labor-intensive work, and therefore have chosen to create what I feel will be something beautiful and that will bring pleasure. That does not preclude having a powerful message, as I deal with issues of importance to most women. Most of my work is done with what might be considered “women’s work” - embroidery, quilting, beading, etc. I do this intentionally to show that there is both merit and power to these techniques, and because I enjoy working this way.

Since there is usually a historical context to my work, I include stamps of well-known American women in it to add another layer of meaning. The book formats that I use allow me to do pieces that are sculptural with strong visual images, as well as written components that are explored when the pieces are read.

EXHIBITIONS

1980 - 2009

Nearly 50 awards and shows in galleries and museums spanning the U.S., including a one-woman show, "The Connecting Thread" at Seattle University, and a lecture at the University of Washington (1999)

2010 - Present

"Surface Matters", 2010, Penn Cove Pottery, Coupeville, WA
"On the Surface", 2010, La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum, La Conner, WA
Shaw Museum, 2012, Boston MA
Whidbey Island Surface Design, 2013, Shack Gallery, Everett WA
"Artist's Books: Chapter I", 2013, "Artist's Books: Chapter II" 2014, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Bainbridge Island, WA
"Out of the Blue", 2014, La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum, La Conner, WA
"Carpe Librum: The Art of the Book", 2015, Bainbridge Island, WA
"Artist's Books Chapter Five: Women, Now and Then", 2015, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Bainbridge Island, WA
"Paper Transformed", 2015 Northwind Arts Center, Port Townsend, WA
"Paper Transformed II", 2016, Koch Gallery, Vashon Island, WA
"Paper Translations" 2016, Kirkland Art Center, Kirkland, WA
"Beyond The Surface", 2016, Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum, La Conner, WA
"Artist's Books: ChapterNine: Local Heroes", Book Artists of Washington State, 2017, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Bainbridge Island, WA
"NOW", 2017, Museo Gallery, Whidbey Island, WA
"Artist's Books: Chapter 12 – Taking Issue", 2017-18, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Bainbridge Island, WA
"Pomp & Circumstance", 2018, Museo Gallery, Whidbey Island,WA
"Artist's Books: Chapter 13 – Lyricism and Laughter", 2018, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Bainbridge Island, WA
"Artist's Books: Chapter 14 – Bound To Be Art", 2018, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Bainbridge Island, WA
"Uncommon Paper", 2019, Northwind Art Center, Port Townsend, WA
"An Abecedarian of Artist's Books" 2019, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Bainbridge Island, WA
"Following The Thread", 2019, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Bainbridge Island, WA
"Reflections", 2020, Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum, La Conner, WA
"NWDC at Museo", 2020, Museo Gallery, Whidbey Island, WA
"Currents 2020 National Craft Exhibition", 2020, Shack Art Center, Everett, WA

“The Book as Art v. 8.0: Infinity”, 2020, Center for The Book Arts, Decatur, GA
“The Book as Art: Accordion Adartions”, 2020, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
“NW Craft 20”, 2020-21, Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA
“NW Craft 21”, 2021-22, Gallery at The Park Store, Richland, WA
“Lakeland Art Guild 49th Annual Melvin Gallery Art Exhibition”, 2021, Online
“Fantasy Footwear, The Shoe Reimagined”, 2022, Clarke & Clarke Art + Artifacts, Mercer Island, WA
“Anacortes Arts Festival Juried Fine Art Show”, 2023, Anacortes, WA

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

National Museum of Women in the Arts,
Yale, Harvard, Duke,
University of Washington, Washington State University,
UC Berkeley, Claremont,
University of Michigan, Northwestern University,
University of Alberta-Canada

PUBLICATIONS

Fiberart, Summer 1995, Vol.22, No.1
The Flying Needle, May 1995, Vol. XXIV, No. 2
American Craft, December 1999/January 2000, Vol. 59, No. 6
Duke Magazine, January 2002, Vol.88, No. 2
Women in the Arts, Fall 2006, Vol. XXIV, No. 3

The Book As Art, 2006
The Book As Art, Second Edition, 2011
Fine Books Blog 2011
Clara-Database of Women Artists