

Bardo Matrix Collection

including *Dreamweapon* and *Ting Pa*

offered by Granary Books
Fall 2020



THE COLLECTION

Granary Books is pleased to offer for sale a collection of works published by and related to Bardo Matrix Press, in Kathmandu, Nepal, 1974-1979.

This collection includes books by Paul Bowles, Ira Cohen, Gregory Corso, Diane di Prima, Jane Falk, Charles Henri Ford, Iris Gaynor, Angus MacLise, and Roberto Francisco Valenza, which feature the artwork of Hetty MacLise, Petra Vogt, and Dana Young. The collection also includes pamphlets, broadsides, and ephemera from the Spirit Catcher Bookshop and Bardo Matrix Press, as well as an extremely rare complete run of *Ting Pa*, MacLise's Tibetan and English-language poetry journal.

This inventory is divided into five categories:

- Books
- Broad­sides
- *Ting Pa* magazine
- Ephemera (including posters, printed artworks, and other items)
- Related works

Overall copies are fine or very fine, with occasional slight imperfections to be expected with use of handmade paper and the nature of the material (such as posters or other ephemera). Additional notes regarding condition as needed.

Offered as a collection only; extent is 43 items.

The collection is housed at Granary Books, in New York City. Please contact sclay@granarybooks.com for price.

ABOUT BARDO MATRIX

Kathmandu, Nepal, was a vibrant expatriate center for a community of poets, musicians, artists, and spiritual seekers in the 1970s, in large part due to the Bardo Matrix collective—a group that began in Boulder, Colorado as The Experimental Cinema Group. Founding members in the Kathmandu branch initially included Angus MacLise, John Chick, Dana Young, and Ira Cohen. Bardo Matrix Press, and especially the Starstreams Poetry Series, edited by Cohen, generated collaborations between Beat and countercultural poets and local artisans to produce books and broadsides informed by Nepali and Tibetan traditions.

Around 1971, Ian Alsop, Francis Brooks, and Simon White became involved making woodblock prints to sell to tourists, and Ira Cohen notes they “were to play an important role in the development of small press publications by myself, my old friend and comrade, poet-calligrapher, Angus MacLise, and other poets who quickly formed a community in the Kathmandu Valley.” MacLise’s work with Piero Heliczer and his press, the dead language, “making unique books from treebark or fashioning long horizontal handmade books after the Tibetan or Indian style,” proved influential: it was Angus who, “working with local craftsmen and woodblock artists, really began the great rice paper adventure.”¹

John Chick, together with Cohen and MacLise, opened a bookshop named The Spirit Catcher on so-called “Freak Street” or Jhochhen Tole. The shop was open from about 1972–1979, and provided a weekly forum for poetry readings, music, and community that attracted both tourists and locals.²

Bardo Matrix publications shed light on small press publishing, Beat poetry, Eastern spirituality in American countercultural poetics, expatriate communities in postwar American poetry, and traditional non-Western (Nepali and Tibetan specifically) printing techniques in cross-cultural exchange.

1 Ira Cohen, “The Great Rice Paper Adventure: Kathmandu, 1971–1977.” *New Observations* no. 106, May/June 1995. Online at Big Bridge, no. 5.

2 Prawash Gautam, “How a used bookstore in Kathmandu’s Jhochhen captured the spirit of the hippie movement,” *The Kathmandu Post*, Dec. 18, 2018.

BOOKS



Paul Bowles. *Next to Nothing*. Bardo Matrix, 1976. Wrappers, stitched binding. Printed on rice paper. Verifax cover design by Maya, tipped-in photo-collage by Dana Young on frontispiece, title page illustration by Sidney Hushour, and additional drawing by Petra Vogt. Skull drawing on colophon by Lee Baarslag and Kufic design by Bowles. This is no. 39 from an edition of 500 copies. Starstreams Poetry Series, no. 5. Slight age-darkening at edges of wrappers.



Ira Cohen and Dana Young. *Opium Elementals*. Bardo Matrix, 1976. Silk paper wrappers, stitched binding. Includes two poems by Ira Cohen and eight woodblock images by Dana Young. This is no. 168 from an edition of 350 copies, signed by Ira Cohen, Dana Young, and John Chick. A Starstream Special Edition.



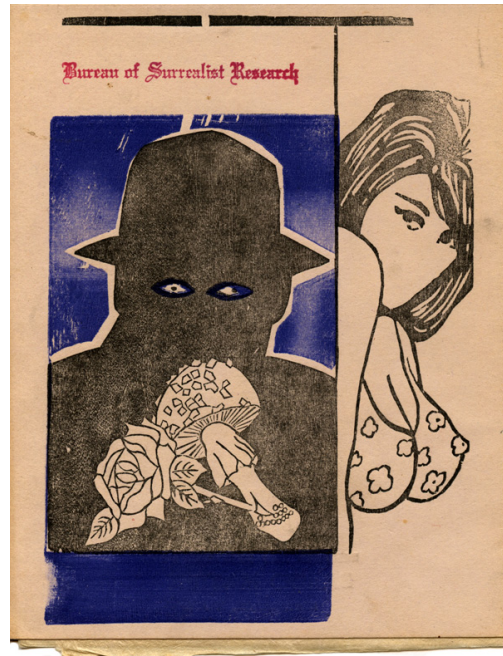
Ira Cohen. *Gilded Splinters*. Bardo Matrix, 1977. Wrappers with stitched binding. Drawings throughout by Jimmy Thapa. Tipped-in photograph of poet on inside rear endpaper, with "Self Portrait w Candle Wax" in autograph, signed by poet / photographer. This is no. 178 from an edition of 500 signed copies. Inscribed and signed to Ruth [Ford, sister of Charles Henri Ford], New York City, Aug. 11, 1985. We are not aware of other copies containing a tipped-in photograph; it is likely unique to this copy for Ruth Ford. A Starstreams Special Edition.



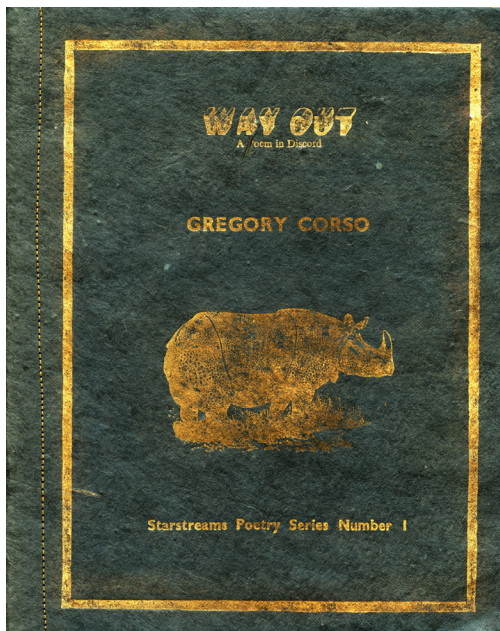
Ira Cohen. *7 Marvels*. Bardo Matrix, 1975. Rice paper folder with pocket containing another folder with 14 leaves of varying sizes, including seven poems by Ira Cohen and seven woodblock images after Marvel Comix. With double skullcup mushroom colophon designed by John Chick. This is no. 58 from an edition of 500 copies. Starstreams Poetry Series, no. 2. Very slight foxing on inside pages and small discoloration on cover, else an excellent copy.



Ira Cohen. *Poems from The Cosmic Crypt*. Kali Press / Bardo Matrix, 1976. Unprinted black cloth over boards. Printed on rice paper. Tipped-in drawings by Petra Vogt. Portrait of the poet on title page from a photograph by Dana Young. Introduction by Angus MacLise. Co-published with Ian Alsop's Kali Press. This is no. 393 from an edition of 500 copies, signed by the poet. Printed poem in poet's hand on page prior to the colophon.



Ira Cohen. *Poem for La Malinche*. Bardo Matrix, [1974?]. Two folded sheets of rice paper laid in printed cover. Printed and rubber-stamped, featuring artwork by Dana Young, a four-color print of skeleton in suit with gun on cover, and two-color print of black silhouette and woman on back cover with "Bureau of Surrealist Research" stamped. This is no. 402 from an edition of 500 copies, signed by poet.



Gregory Corso. *Way Out: A Poem in Discord*. Bardo Matrix, 1974. Handmade stiff paper wrappers, stitched binding. Printed on rice paper, with gold letterpress cover and gold headers throughout. Inscribed by Ira Cohen, publisher, to Richard Aaron. Includes broadside listing the cast (including Angus MacLise and Ira Cohen) of the apparent world premiere of *Way Out*, held in Kathmandu, Nepal, at the Yak & Yeti Crystal Ballroom on Oct. 11, 1974. This is no. 243 from an edition of 500 copies. The publisher acknowledges Alan Zio, who provided the manuscript for *Way Out*, written by Corso in the early 1950s and to Bill Barker. Starstreams Poetry Series, no. 1. Slight fading of gold on covers as typical of printing process on handmade paper.

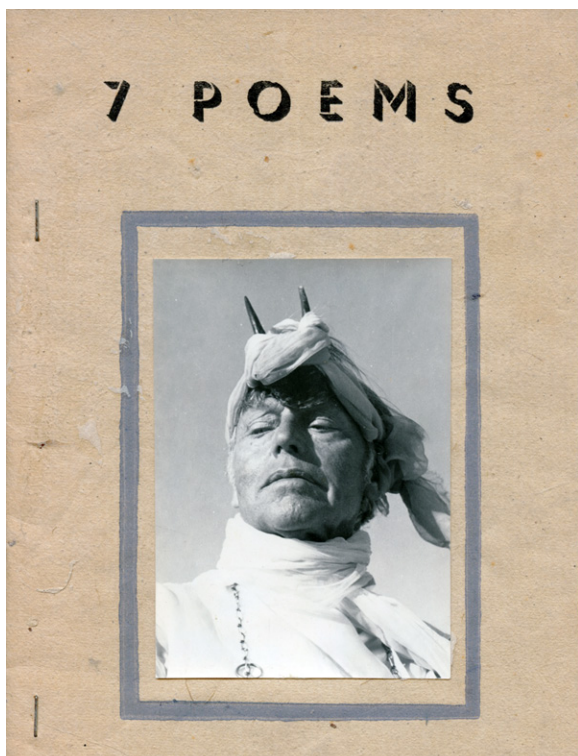


Diane di Prima. *Loba Part II: Eidolon* Editions, 1976. Saddle-stitched in wrappers. Printed on rice paper. Drawings by Josie Grant. Printed by Dreamweapon for Eidolon Editions (a press founded by Diane di Prima), "in the Kingdom of Nepal, being the 24th printing of the Independent Presses of Kathmandu." This is from an edition of 550 copies of which 50 are hardbound, numbered, and signed by the poet and artist.



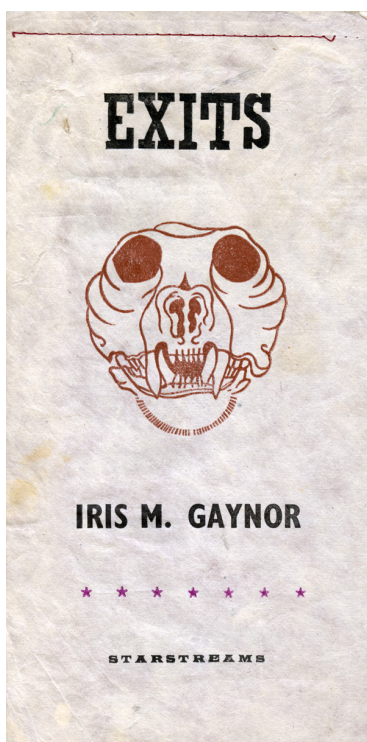
Jane Falk. *Ckrowww*. Bardo Matrix, 1977.

Wrappers, stitched binding. Printed on handmade paper. Nepali translations by Chaitanya Upadhya. Cover and half title crow drawings by Petra Vogt; crow colophons by Lee Baarslag. This is no. 17 from an edition of 500 copies. Starstreams Poetry Series, no. 6. Slightly rumped and age-darkened, with two spots on cover and slight foxing on first few pages.



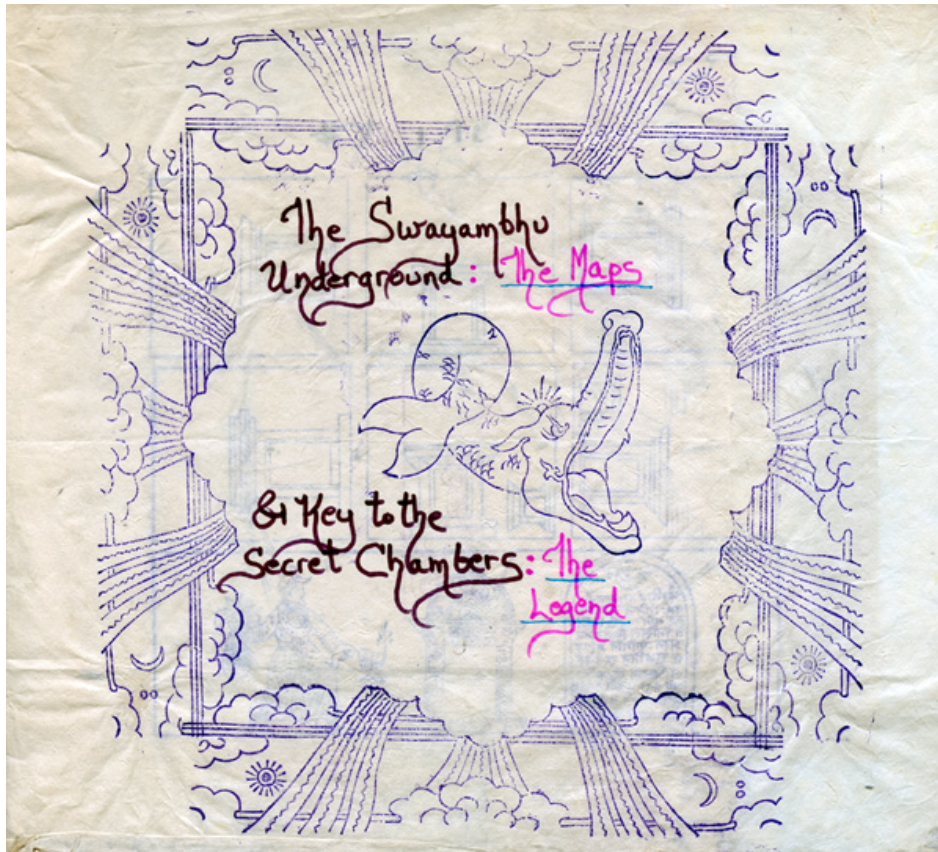
Charles Henri Ford. *7 Poems*. Bardo Matrix, 1974.

Stapled wrappers. Printed on rice paper. Photograph of the author by Iran Cohen mounted on the front cover. This is from an edition of 500 numbered copies; though unnumbered, this copy is signed "Bardo Matrix / John Chick." Starstreams Poetry Series, no. 3.

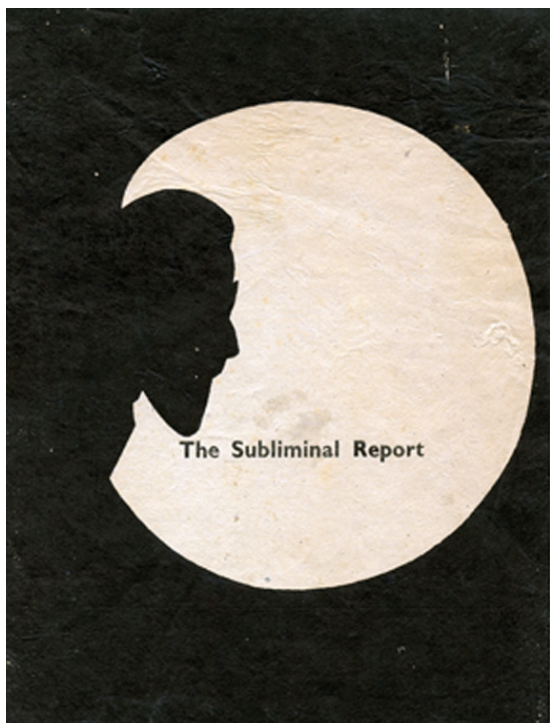


Iris M. Gaynor. *Exits*. Bardo Matrix, 1977.

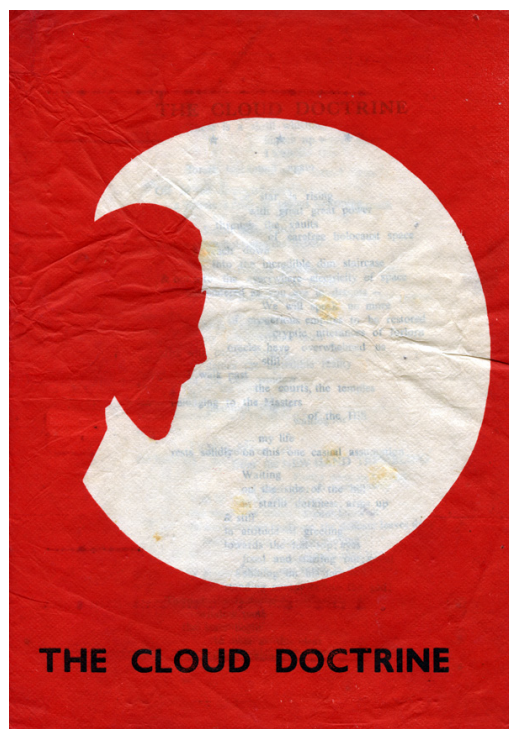
Wrappers with stitched binding. Printed on handmade rice paper. Saligram design by Ludmila Sraj, tiger skull by Lee Baarslag. This is no. 19 from an edition of 200 copies. Inscribed to Harvey by Iris Gaynor, Apr. 29, 1977. A Starstreams Special Edition. Small hole on front flyleaf, with 1/4 in. tears on back flyleaf and publisher's advertisement; approx. 1/2 in. of binding loosened.



Angus MacLise and Mahaprasad Shresta. *Swayambhu Underground: The Maps & Key to the Secret Chambers: The Legend*. Dreamweapon, 1975. Wrappers. Handmade book on fold-out pages printed on rice paper with calligraphed titling on front cover and imprint on back in MacLise's hand. Contains small stapled book in typescript (unique) on rice paper pages within envelope titled "Key to the Secret Chambers," affixed on back inside cover. This is no. 7 from an edition of 25 copies. Slight rumpling at bottom edge of wrappers, else a very fine copy.



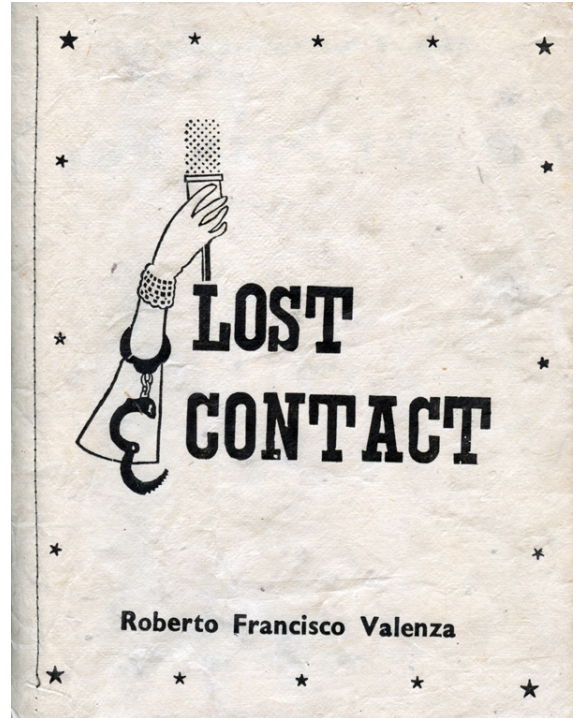
Angus MacLise. *The Subliminal Report*. Bardo Matrix, 1975. Wrappers. Photographs by Ira Cohen, including frontispiece Mylar photograph of poet and Silver Garuda. This is no. 382 from an edition of 500 copies. Angus MacLise printed signature on back cover. Starstreams Poetry Series, no. 4 [Dreamweapon Works 2].



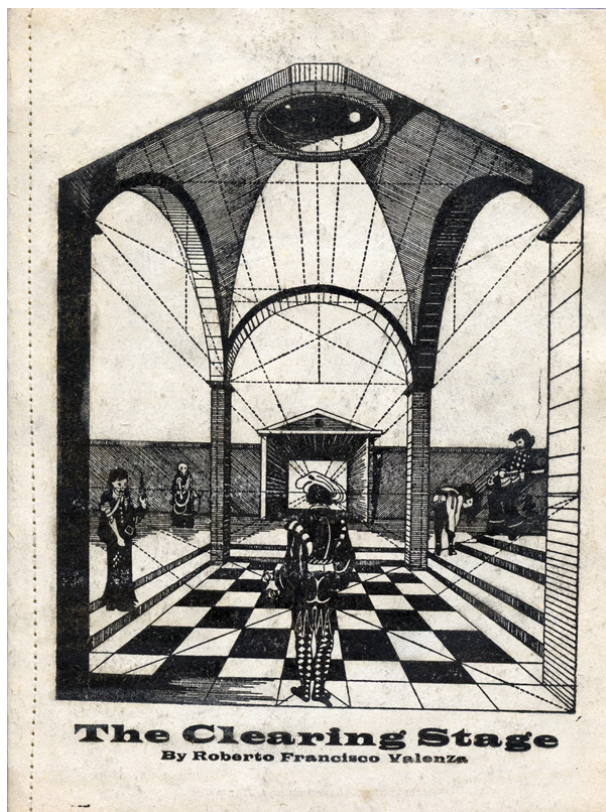
Angus MacLise. *The Cloud Doctrine*. Dreamweapon Press, 1974. Stapled wrappers. Front cover from a photograph by Ira Cohen is a red version of *The Subliminal Report* cover [Dreamweapon Works 2]. Signed on back cover by Angus MacLise. Dreamweapon Works 4. With very slight foxing.



Sagaraya [Jane Falk]. *The Witch Speaks. Snake Tongue*, 1976. Wrappers, stitched binding. This is no. 40 from an edition of 230 copies. Inscribed to "Blood Brother" Dana Young by Jane Sagaraya [Falk], Apr. 21, 1976. Small chip in lower right cover; else very fine.



Roberto Francisco Valenza. *Lost Contact. Bardo Matrix*, 1977. Wrappers, stitched binding. Printed on handmade paper. Book design by author and tancha Valenza. Illustrations by Sherpa Lama O'leshe. This is no. 182 from an edition of 250 copies. Bardo Matrix Special Edition. Kathmandu Poetry Edition.



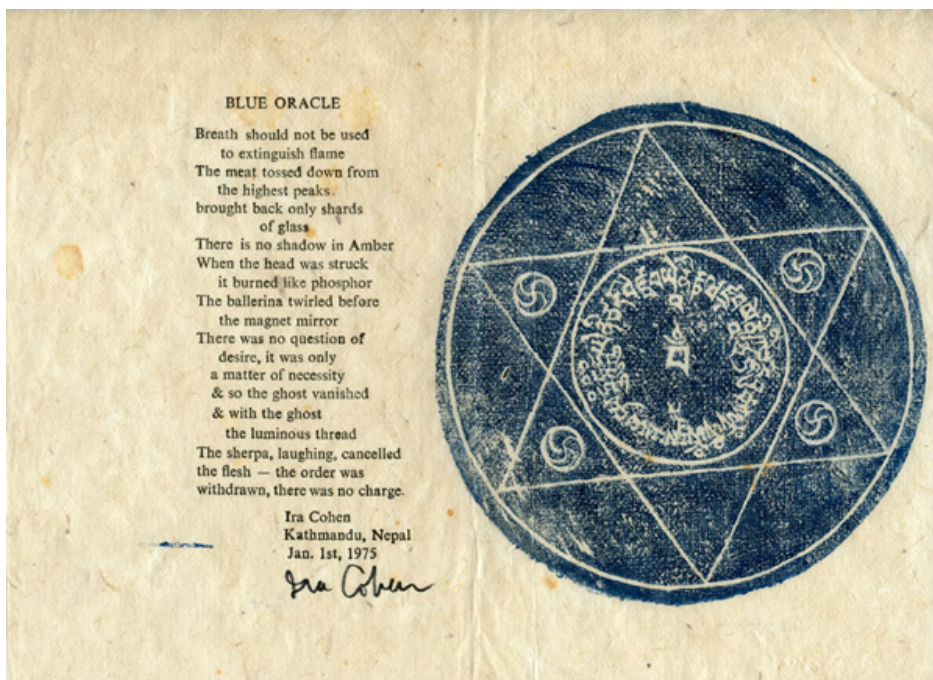
Roberto Francisco Valenza. *The Clearing Stage. Bardo Matrix*, 1976. Wrappers, stitched binding. Printed on rice paper. Special copy of the edition with an original photograph of the poet wearing a duck-bill by Ira Cohen, tipped in. Illustrations by Jewelie Deasy, Robert Beer, and Sherpa Lama O'leshe. This is no. 279 from an edition of 450 copies, signed by the poet. Bardo Matrix Special Edition. Small ¼ in. circular tear in back blue flyleaf; else extraordinarily clean, bright copy.



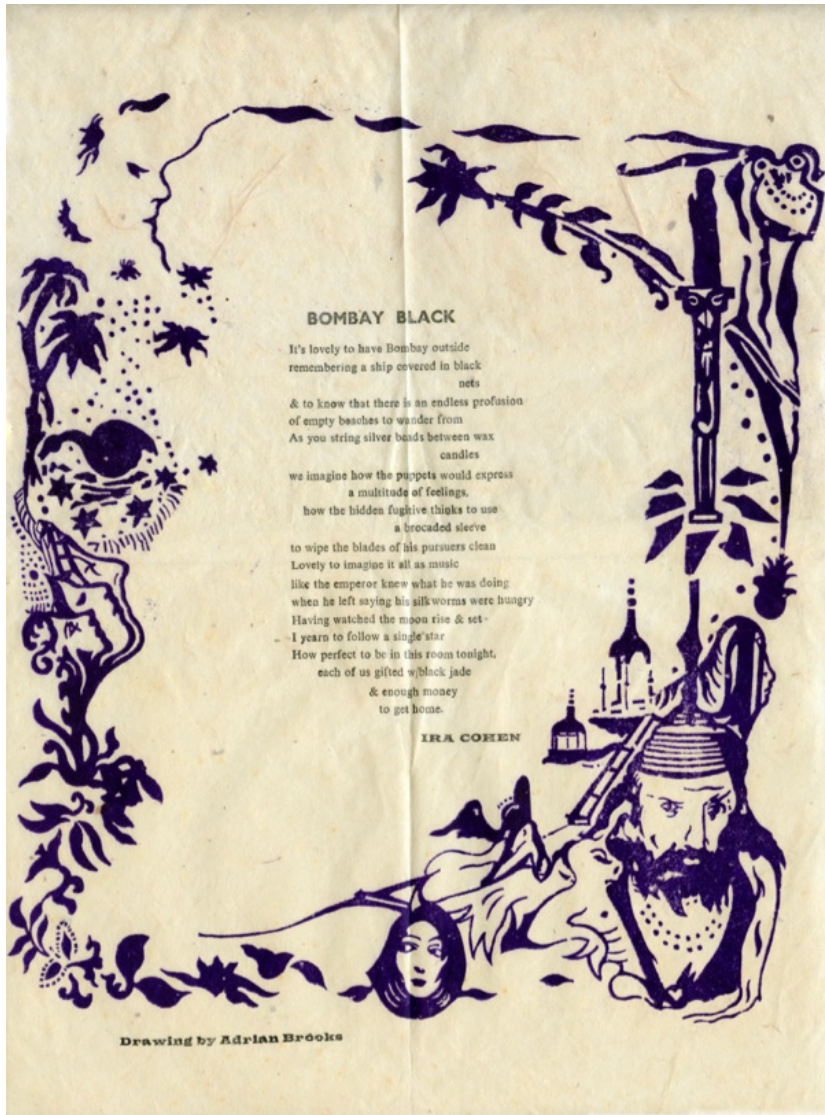
BROADSIDES



Ira Cohen, Roberto Francisco Valenza, and Dana Young. *Spirit Catcher! Bardo Matrix*, 1976. 11 3/8 x 16 1/2 in. broadside printed letterpress on rice paper and folded three times, with printed envelope. Poems by Ira Cohen, Roberto Francisco Valenza, and Dana Young. Graphics by Dana Young. Also contains announcements for new Bardo Matrix books, *Opium Elementals* by Young and Cohen and *The Clearing Stage* by Roberto Francisco Valenza.



Ira Cohen. *Blue Oracle*. [Bardo Matrix], 1975. 10 1/4 x 8 in. poetry broadside, printed on rice paper. Woodblock print by Dana Young. Signed by Ira Cohen.



Ira Cohen. *Bombay Black*. [Bardo Matrix], [ca. 1974-1977]. 14 x 16 in. broadside printed on rice paper. Drawing by Adrian Brooks. Folded in quarters.



Ira Cohen. *Night Song*. [Bardo Matrix], [ca. 1974-1977]. 12 ¼ x 15 ½ in. broadside printed on rice paper. Drawing by Adrian Brooks. Folded in quarters.

TING PA



Angus MacLise, ed. *Ting Pa, Kathmandu Special* [no. 1]. Fall 1972. Handmade paper folios, with cover by Hetty MacLise. Hand-printed in Swayambhu by Ato Tamting Sija, contributors include Olivia de Haulleville, Francis Brooks, Anje, and Angus MacLise. Woodblocks contributed by Ian Alsop and Francis Brooks. This is no. 80 from an edition of 150 copies. Corrections by the editor noted in holograph include "print 2-Arhat" and "print 3-Yabyum."



Angus MacLise, and Francis Brooks, eds. *Ting Pa, no. 2.* Spring 1973. Handmade paper folios. Contributors including Bill Barker, Katie McDonald, Petra Vogt, T. V. Kapali Sastry, Ira Cohen, Karma Samde Drolma, a story from the Mongolian, Akis Vostanis, Karma Jimba Tzammo, and Balakrishna Sama. Cohen's poem signed. This is no. 100 from an edition of 150 copies. Slightly rumpled cover folio with few discoloration spots; interior folios with dusty edges at times else fine.

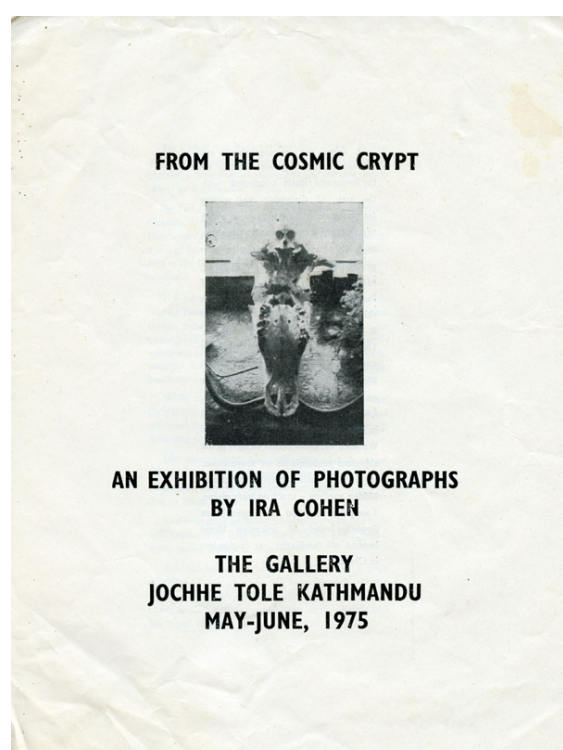


Angus MacLise and Hetty, and Francis Brooks, eds. *Ting Pa, no. 3.* Winter 1973. Sewn in wrappers. Printed on rice paper. Contributors to final issue include Diane di Prima, Pierre Reverdy, Jerome Rothenberg, Robert Bly, Milarepa, Michael McClanathan, Gerard Malanga, George Ripley, Huang Po, and excerpts from various texts. This is no. 184 from an edition of 333 copies. Dana Young's ownership signature is on the title page. Small discoloration and insect damage on lower right of cover; else a very fine copy.

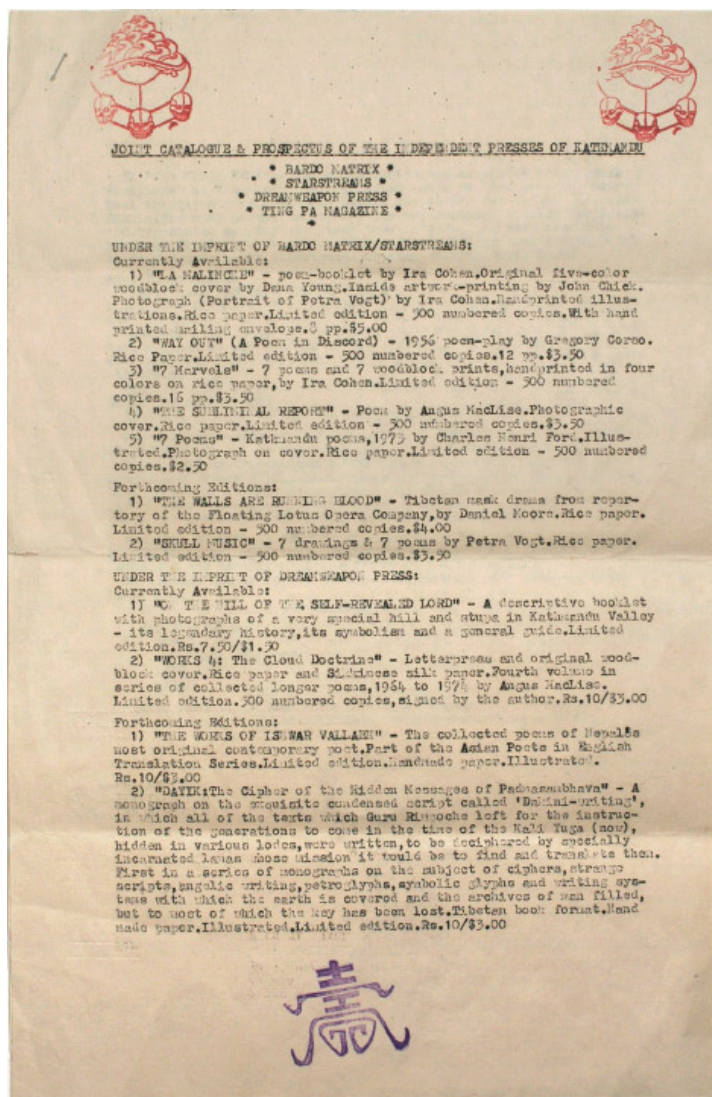
EPHEMERA, POSTERS, AND PRINTED ARTWORKS



[4 Bardo Matrix cards with woodblock prints]. Bardo Matrix, n.d. Each card constructed with approx. 7 x 11 ½ in. sheet of handmade paper, folded. Covers contain woodblock prints of geometric design by Gregg Sharits, Naga Buddha, Tibetan warrior, and man's head. Only the latter lacks purple stamp on back cover that reads "Bardo Matrix, Kathmandu, Nepal."



Ira Cohen. "From the Cosmic Crypt: An Exhibition of Photographs by Ira Cohen." N.p., 1975. Single sheet printed on both sides and folded once to make four pages. Published on the occasion of the exhibition "From the Cosmic Crypt: An Exhibition of Photographs by Ira Cohen," The Gallery, Jochhe Tole, Kathmandu, May-June, 1975. Notes, "this exhibition marks the first time that a large selection of his photographs have been presented together." A few miniscule spots and darkening, else fine.



[Bardo Matrix]. Joint Catalog & Prospectus of the Independent Presses of Kathmandu. Bardo Matrix, [1973?]. Two pages, stapled in upper left corner. Printed and rubberstamped. Bardo Matrix, Starstreams, Dreamweapon Press, and *Ting Pa* magazine, with enumeration of Nepalese publications and availability. Indicates that all checks and enquiries are to be made to Angus MacLise. Addressed and sent to Gregg Sharits, Berkeley (one of the original members of the Boulder-based Bardo Matrix group). Return address is Dreamweapon Press, Kathmandu. Folded three times lengthwise for mailing; slightly fragile at creases.

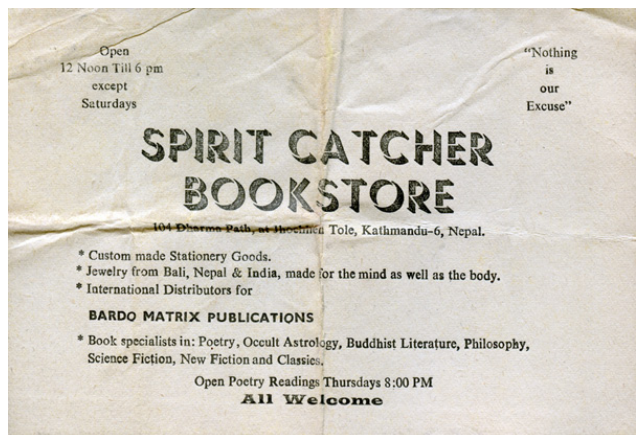


[Woodblock print of cover for *Poem for La Malinche* on blue paper]. Bardo Matrix, n.d. On blue folded paper, in black and red ink. Artwork by Dana Young. Image matches the cover used for Ira Cohen's *Poem for La Malinche* (Bardo Matrix, 1974?). Slight age-darkening at edges, else bright and fine.

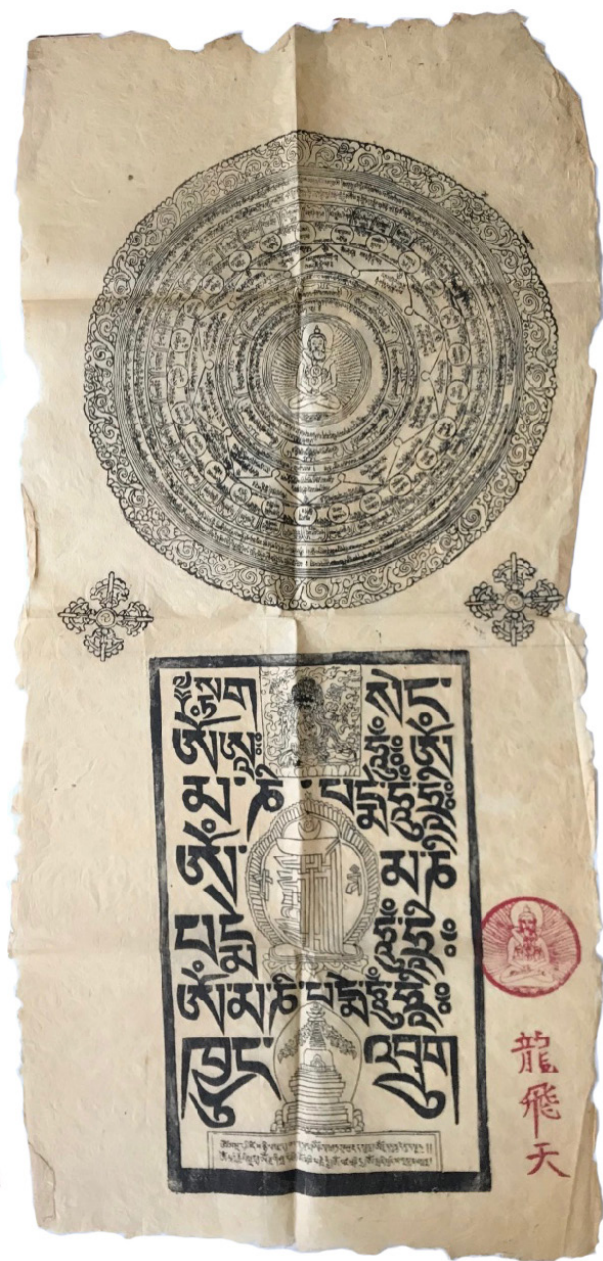


Spirit Catcher Bookshop Broadsheet, July 1975. Spirit Catcher Bookshop, 1975. 13 x 18 in. broadside. Letterpress printed on rice paper. Notes, news, and poems from the Spirit Catcher Bookshop, Kathmandu, Nepal. Poems by Carey Linn, Angus MacLise, Roberto Francisco Valenza, Ira Cohen, John Fungi, and Jigme Limpa. Folded into quarters, slight rumpling on bottom edge, else fine.

Spirit Catcher Bookstore. Spirit Catcher Bookshop, [ca. 1975]. Approx. 4 1/2 x 6 3/4 in. card advertising Spirit Catcher Bookstore (Bookshop), Jhochhen Tole, Kathmandu. On verso are directions in an unidentified hand: "Brujo Mocho Christo / San Miguel River near Puentomoyo River. Go to Macow then to Pt. Asis by jeep. Boat down river to Brujo. Ask native people for location." Folded in quarters as if to stow in pocket, slightly rumpled at creases; else fine.



[Tantra Pooja Incense]. Bardo Matrix, n.d. 8 1/2 x 6 3/4 in. flyer, folded length-wise, on rice paper. Advertises Tantra Pooja Incense. Indicates, "handmade in Kathmandu, Nepal, 25 pieces." Stamped woodcut images and lettering.



[Two large posters on handmade paper, with two different sets of mandalas]. Bardo Matrix, 1975.

47 x 22 in. handmade paper posters, containing two large woodblock prints of mandalas and additional Tibetan-style woodblock prints. Both posters share one mandala print in common, but are otherwise unique. One poster is no. 1 from an edition of 10 copies, dated Feb. 2, 1975; the other is unnumbered. Unnumbered poster folded into eighths with three very slight holes at creases; numbered copy folded likewise with one slight hole at crease. Both slightly age-darkened, else very good condition. (Only one poster pictured.)

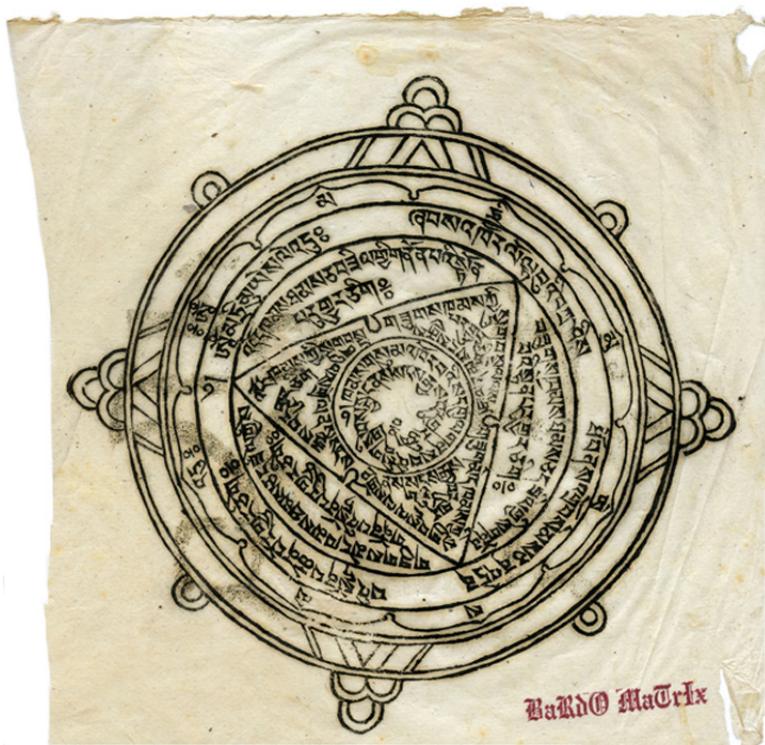


[Untitled large poster on handmade paper, with woodblock print of Tibetan deities]. Bardo Matrix, n.d. 33 x 22 1/2 in. handmade paper poster, with vertically-oriented landscape scene of Tibetan deities. Folded in sixths, with slight foxing. (Detail and full poster pictured.)





[Untitled large poster of Tibetan deity holding zodiac chart]. Bardo Matrix, n.d. 29 ¼ x 22 ¼ poster on stunning green and gold silk paper, featuring woodblock print of zodiac chart held by Tibetan deity in black ink. Additional stamped signs of the zodiac in purple ink. Folded in quarters, slightly rumped, with slight rip near top and four very small burn holes in middle right.



[Untitled woodblock print of mandala]. Bardo Matrix, n.d.
 10 ¼ x 9 ¾ in. woodblock print on handmade paper. With Bardo Matrix publishing stamp. Features an image of a mandala with Tibetan script. A very fine print, with slight imperfections in the paper edges.

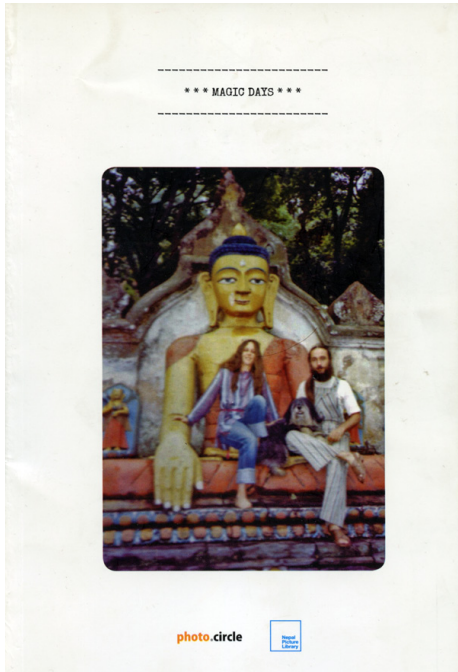


Young, Dana. [Bardo Matrix card with Dana Young woodblock print]. Bardo Matrix, n.d.
 4 ¼ x 7 in. card, folded. Front cover consists of woodblock print by Dana Young of celestial and extraterrestrial themes, with geometric "Bardo Matrix" stamped inside in red. Slight smudging on back cover, else fine.

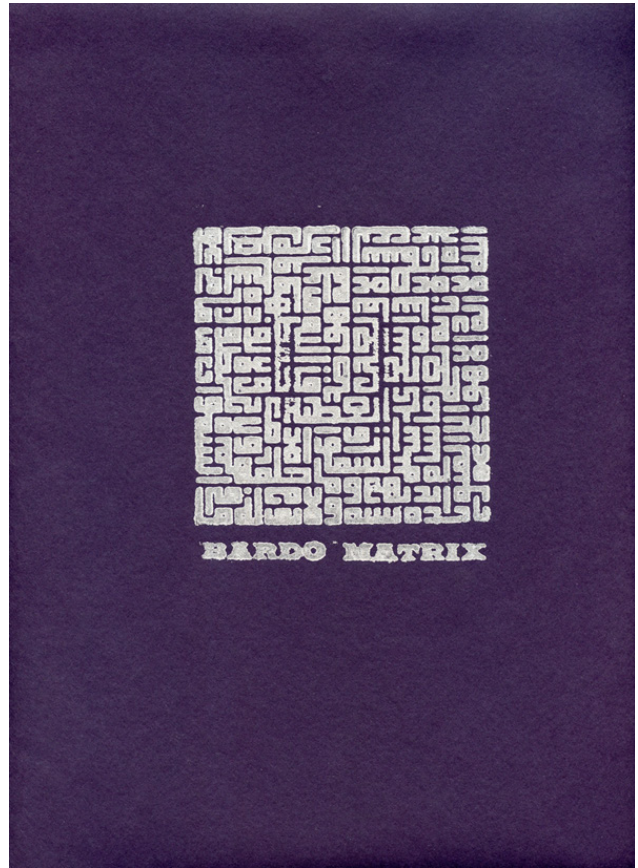


[Untitled woodblock print and rubber stamp on pink paper]. Bardo Matrix, n.d. Folded pink sheet with Bardo Matrix rubber stamps and woodblock print, in red, purple, and black inks. Slightly rumped at edges, else clean and fine.

RELATED WORKS



Lucia De Vries and NayanTara Gurug Kakshapati. *Magic Days*. Photocircle and Nepal Picture Library, Sept. 2016. Perfect-bound wrappers. Featuring William Forbes and Susan Burns's photographs and memories from their time in Kathmandu, Nepal, with the Bardo Matrix scene. Slight crease at top left cover, else fine.



[Ira Cohen et al.]. Kugelberg, Johan, ed. *Bardo Matrix*. Boo-Hooray, 2014. Saddle-stitched in hand-stamped string-tie envelope. Bardo Matrix bibliography published on the occasion of the exhibition "Bardo Matrix: A Kathmandu Beat Poetry Press," The Grolier Club, New York City, March 26–May 24, 2014, curated by Johan Kugelberg / Boo-Hooray. Includes folded invitation to the opening of The Grolier Club exhibition; black and white printed card featuring images of Bardo Matrix covers; and copy of Jane Falk's *Ckrowww*, Starstreams no. 6. (each publication comes with a different Bardo Matrix book). This is from an edition of 120 copies. Like new, excepting light scuff on rear of envelope; very fine copy of *Ckrowww*.

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