

Granary Books is pleased to present

## ***The Journal of Artists' Books (JAB) Archive, Part 2***

**EXTENT:** 18 boxes (approx. 26 linear feet), with multimedia/digital files

**DATES:** 1958-2023, bulk 2003-2023

**CONTENT:** This is the second installment of *The Journal of Artists' Books (JAB) Archive*, containing materials related to the production of JAB 20 through JAB 47/48, the final issue. This collection includes correspondence, manuscripts (with corrections and emendations), production files, artworks, printing proofs, digital files, and photographs, as well as items ranging from polymer plates to rubber stamps that were used in the production of the journal. In addition to materials related to issues 20 through 47/48, the archive also contains materials related to some earlier issues.



**ABOUT JAB:** *The Journal of Artists' Books*, or JAB, was founded in 1994 by Brad Freeman to promote critical and creative discussion surrounding artists' books. The early 1990s were a pivotal moment in the field; a year later, Johanna Drucker published her seminal *The Century of Artists' Books* (Granary Books, 1995), and other journals and forums have coalesced in the decades since. Over 48 issues and nearly 2 decades, Freeman and co-editor Johanna Drucker invited guest editors to highlight the practices of international communities (such as JAB 34, "The Poland JAB"), solicited book reviews, printed artists' books as part of the journal itself, and provided a training ground for future printers through mentorship programs integrated into the production of the journal.

Over its many issues, JAB explored topics related to printmaking, poetry, photography, visual arts, graphic design, and book arts, as well as the overlaps between each of these activities and communities. Collaborators on the journal, which are represented in the second installment of the archive, include Johanna Drucker, Elisabeth Long, Tony White, Clifton Meador, Joan Lyons, Phil Zimmermann, Emily McVarish, Clive Phillpot, Amos P. Kennedy, Paulo Silveira, Veronika Schapers, and dozens of others working as book artists, curators, writers, and more.

The journal is considered one of the foundational "texts" in the field of artists' books, and a fundamental document of artist book community from the 1990s-2010s.

## THE ARCHIVE

The initial *JAB* archive was placed at the Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections by Granary Books in 2003, covering the first 20 issues of the magazine. After 2003, there was a four-year hiatus as the printing of the journal relocated from Nexus Press in Atlanta to the Center for Book and Paper Arts at Columbia College in Chicago. The journal ceased production in 2020, and that year was anthologized by the University of Iowa Press. Thus, the second installment represents the 20 years and 28 issues that complete the history of *JAB* as a journal and indeed, a community.

### Highlights of the Archive

The contents of the archive are a masterclass in printing production, spanning multiple presses, institutional affiliations, and editorial combinations, all under Brad Freeman's expert and collaborative eye. In particular, the archive provides ample evidence of workflows related to offset printing practices, with carefully annotated proofs showing the use of experimental duotones and tritones, as well as polymer plates and flats (stripped film) combined with more traditional offset preparations.

In addition to this, the archive has extensive correspondence (with both letters and printed email), documenting the logistical aspects of publishing *JAB* through conversations between board members and contributors. There are also many manuscripts and editorial conversations between Freeman and contributors, illustrating the development of writing that was included in specific issues as well as issues' overall editorial trajectories.

In 2002, *JAB* began the innovative practice of incorporating artists' books in the publication itself. While Freeman initially included one or two in each issue, the number increased to 10 booklets in a single issue, eventually totaling almost 80 such artists' books overall. In the archive, significant documentation shows the development of these artists' books, especially preparing them for printing. Freeman, who is an expert offset printer, has included numerous proofs, production dummies, test runs, and experiments in the archive to show the painstaking processes by which the journal and the included artists' books were printed.

### Description of the Archive

The archive was assembled by Brad Freeman in 2023 in collaboration with Granary Books, who evaluated and appraised the archive that same year. It is inventoried at folder level in a comprehensive spreadsheet, with columns for archival series, subseries, folder descriptions by Freeman, date, and other information. The archive is located in Los Angeles in the winter months of 2023 and 2024.

Freeman has used the term "artwork" to refer to both original artworks, as well as printed/editioned items that were intended as artworks by their creators. As such, the archive is rich in this type of material, as well as printed ephemera such as posters and broadsides, and other promotional and artistic material.

Multimedia files, including CD-Roms and hard drives, contain production materials for the magazine and have been labeled by Freeman.

There is a printed supplement available separately but also in conjunction with the archive, containing books received by Freeman for review or inclusion in *JAB* and related publications.

*Price upon request to [info@granarybooks.com](mailto:info@granarybooks.com). The archive is represented by Granary Books.*