



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Possibilities: When Artists' Books Were Young* (Exhibition)  
Friday, February 11 – Sunday, May 1, 2022 (San Francisco Center for the Book)

(February 1, 2022): SAN FRANCISCO - *Possibilities: When Artists' Books Were Young* focuses on the genesis of artists' books as examined through the lenses of gender and inclusion. By highlighting the critical role that women, including women of color, played in the definition, development and curation of artists' books and exploring the challenges of inclusion and diversity, *Possibilities* works to re-focus our understanding of the time when artists' books were coming into their own. Exhibited items include rarely seen exhibition catalogues and posters from early artists' books shows as well as trailblazing works by creators from the 1970s through the 1990s.

The decade of the 1970s witnessed a broad range of disruptions to the old order, none more significant than second-wave feminism, which brought with it powerful demands by women for a place at the table. For artists, the demands included representation in galleries, museums, textbooks, history and the canon. Three new institutions — the Woman's Building (Los Angeles), Women's Studio Workshop, and Visual Studies Workshop (both in upstate New York)—formed separately to challenge traditional academic approaches.

Curator Kathleen Walkup asks: "What led so many women to books? While there are many pathways, some aspects of the medium help provide a more general answer. The book format is familiar, un-intimidating, inexpensive to make relative to most other mediums and has the ability to be both intimate and widely broadcast. Books suggest authority; their makers are recognized by having their work in circulation, on shelves, in library catalogues or bookshops. They can be produced as unique objects or in limited or open editions." Exhibited together, these experimental works capture the zeitgeist of early artists' books, their creators, and the institutions which fostered both.

Exhibited artists include Dorothy Iannone, Joan Lyons, Adrian Piper, and Clarissa Sligh. A full color exhibition catalog with essays by Kathleen Walkup, Joan Lyons, and Martha Wilson will be available for purchase through the San Francisco Center for the Book.





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**EXHIBITION TITLE:** *Possibilities: When Artists' Books Were Young*

**WHEN:** Exhibition: Friday, February 11 – Sunday, May 1, 2022.

SFCB gallery hours: Wednesday – Friday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Saturday / Sunday: noon – 4 pm

**WHERE:** San Francisco Center for the Book, 375 Rhode Island Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 | 415-565-0545

**WEBSITE:** [www.sfcg.org](http://www.sfcg.org)

**TICKETS:** not applicable; this is a free event

For further information or press photographs, please contact:

Jennie Hinchcliff, Exhibitions and Events Manager :: [exhibitions@sfcg.org](mailto:exhibitions@sfcg.org)