



Monday, February 13, 2006

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Art Of The Linotype:
Art Books by Mark McDowell
February 17 to May 7

When is a book a work of art? When it is created and produced by an artist in an extremely limited edition; which is what Mark McDowell does. An artist for many years, having graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1976, Mark was looking through a stack of photos of his drawings with an eye to putting them together in book form as a sort of deluxe portfolio. He would write a commentary about each one and in the process gave birth to his first publication, Drawings.

After several publications of his own work, he began to publish the work of others and with the acquisition of the necessary equipment to meet the expanding needs of his projects, Cattle Track Press was born. His studio and home are part of the historic Cattle Track Compound, an area in Scottsdale, Arizona that has been host to countless artists, writers, musicians, etc. since the 1930's. With the support of Cattle Track Arts and Preservation he bought an old print shop in Wickenburg and moved it to his site.

To produce other volumes that were more contemporary and oriented to a larger audience, McDowell founded a second publishing house, Tiny Satellite Press. These two publishing companies have produced dozens of books, portfolios and artworks in small editions. Their works have graced museum walls, libraries big and small, galleries and private collections. Part of their catalog of titles is rooted in the history of the region while other pieces are state of the art contemporary.

According to McDowell: "As a working professional artist I have made my career, mostly, in painting and drawing. Along the way I have had the opportunity to build large-scale sculpture, design circus props, curate exhibitions, and mentor other artists. It seems like a natural extension of my interests to make books and limited edition works of art. It allows me to champion the work of other people. There are so many wonderful things being made by artists today and to help bring them to audiences, for me, personally rewarding. I love works of art that fit in your lap."

The books in the exhibit will feature artists such as John Dawson, a portfolio publication of his etchings; Andy Chuka, a portfolio of lino cuts dating from the 1920's to the 1940's; and *The California Vaquero* by photographer Jay Dusard; to name just a few of the 27 represented.

West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With five exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Classic Café*, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is a small admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.



Mark McDowell



Book Illustration



Book Illustration



Bloom Illustration in a limited edition book

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