

Ann Bilodeau (works in paper, book artist)
Living on Borrowed Time

bio and statement

Having transferred my workshop, the **atelier du tapir** to Montreal from Lennoxville, Qc. in 2010, I find myself presently working fulltime as a book artist, exploring the expressive dimensions and qualities of printed papers as both inspiration and medium.

My participation in this exhibition, **en sursis / living on borrowed time**, features works in and on paper produced in the context of an ongoing preoccupation with the collecting, storing, cataloguing and dissemination of information and knowledge meant to help navigate the ever- changing aspects of the human experience.

As a child and teenager living in Stanstead in the 1950s and 60s, my outlook on life was greatly influenced by the intellectual, cultural and artistic influences of two important institutions:

Le Couvent des Ursulines de Stanstead: where I discovered the joy of producing art, under the guidance of an incredible teacher (I have lost her name but not her joyous outlook) who shared her love of abstract and political art with me over a period of several years. She greatly encouraged me to follow my passion to become an artist.

The Haskell Free Library: this place for me was both sanctuary and a portal across time and place. Through a somewhat haphazard process, I was able to discover how science and opinion often collided and that opinion should be informed and supported by a willingness to be revisited.

For this exhibition I have selected works from 2 different series that reflect the above influences on my work.

Calfat / Jeux de mots (2009-2012) seen as a dictionary (*searching for meaning*) looking to find continuance in a visual language (*searching for expression*) In this process my artistic endeavor is buoyed by the joys of exploration (an act that is above all liberating) and sustained by an outlook focused on life's course and organisation (beliefs and prejudices / questionings / affiliations / incursions / intimacies / mournings / renewals)

ENCYCLOPAEDIA (Volumes 1-2) (2012-) is an ongoing project invested in the transformation of the *Encyclopédie Universelle Française*, Société des éditions Leland, Montréal 1960. To date consisting of some 1680 pages bridging intimate readings (individual thematic 2D pages) with a certain sense of monumentality (bas-reliefs 3D shadow boxes and groupings) In this space the artist takes a stance as both witness and commentator.

Studies: École des Beaux-Arts de Montréal / UQUAM / Atelier Aubergine, Sherbrooke / Université Bishop's, Lennoxville / Au Papier Japonais, Montréal / Atelier Litza Bain, Paris / Atelier les Mille-Feuilles, Rouyn-Noranda

Selected exhibitions: **Kakaki Maison de la culture John-Henry Pope**, Cookshire QC (2016) **ENCYCLOPAEDIA Galerie métissage**, Mégantic QC (2015) / *peace should not be this fragile : a portrait of the PANZI Foundation*, **Graffiti Gallery**, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (2014) / **Florida State Holocaust Museum**, St-Petersburg Florida, USA (2012) / **M.U.R.I.R.S**, *les murales de Sherbrooke*, **Musée des Beaux-Arts de Sherbrooke**, **Les Jeux d'été du Canada 2013** / **2008 NYWAF 4th New York World Art Festival Korea Art Center.24 Gallery**, New York, NY / **Open Space Gallery Symposium CREATIO se livre** (livre d'artiste), **Correspondances d'Eastman** (2007) *lightscares / la demeure*, **Centre culturel Azur / CREATIO centre d'artistes** (2006)