

UCSD's Mandeville Gallery to show works of three major book artists from November 7-December 13 in Mandeville Gallery

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UCSD'S MANDEVILLE GALLERY TO SHOW WORKS OF THREE MAJOR BOOK ARTISTS

Three prestigious British book artists will present works in an exhibition titled "Three British Book Artists: Ian Hamilton Finlay, Tom Phillips, Ian Tyson," from Nov. 7-Dec. 13, in the Mandeville Gallery at the University of California, San Diego.

An opening reception will be held at the gallery at 6 p.m. Nov. 10, followed by poetry readings in the gallery at 7 p.m. The poets who will read from their works are David Antin, Rae Armantrout, Michael Davidson, Jerome Rothenberg and others. The opening is free and open to the public.

"The last quarter of a century has witnessed the development of the book and written word as powerful new media of visual expression," says Mandeville Gallery director Gerry McAllister.

"Finlay, Phillips and Tyson are three major British artists who have experimented with word and image as a defining part of their own artistic output, since the early 1960s. In the present exhibition, their books and related printed works provide a display of the varied range of contemporary visual and verbal art in Britain and throughout the world."

Finlay has published book art throughout his career, especially from the periods between 1958 and 1991. He is noted for his highly original "philosopher's" gardens at his 40-acre home outside of Edinburgh, Scotland, and for his sculptural work. Among his sculpture is the sixth addition to the Stuart Collection at UCSD, a stone configuration engraved with an evolving one-word poem, titled "UNDA." Finlay has used many mediums to express his artistic creativity, including poetry and other forms of writing. He illustrated many of his early books, including "The Sea-Bed," and "The Dancers Inherit the Party" (his first book of poems, 1960).

The Mandeville Gallery also will show a neon concrete poetry wall piece by Finlay, "Stem and Stern," on loan from the Burnett Miller Gallery, Los Angeles.

Phillips has recently published the book, "A Humument: A Treated Victorian Novel" (revised edition, 1987, Thames and Hudson). His altered, three-volume, 432-page version of "Dante's Inferno," was printed a decade ago. Only 185 copies were made. This work is considered rare and has been included in special collections at the Tate Gallery in England, in the Ruth and Marvin Sackner Archive of Concrete and Visual Poetry, Miami, Florida, and in the James S. Copley Library, La Jolla, California. Phillips recently had an exhibition at the North Carolina Museum of Art, in Raleigh, N.C.

The works contained in this exhibition are on loan to the Mandeville Gallery from the above collections, UCSD's Special Collection, and from private collectors, including poet Rothenberg, who is the UCSD visual arts chair.

Tyson, currently a visiting lecturer at UCSD, will have a small retrospective of books that have been made over the past 25 years. Most of the books are crafted by hand; others have been specially printed in limited editions. Tyson has created a book for the exhibition, titled "Six Gematria." The work was created in collaboration with poet Rothenberg, in recognition of their 25-year collaborative endeavors.

The Mandeville Gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday, from noon to 5 p.m. Parking permits are required on the UCSD campus, and may be purchased at the Gilman Drive and Northview Drive information pavilions. For information, call 534-2864.

Editors note: An artist book is made by an artist, having diverse forms, from visual to textual, to a combination of the two. Their content includes poetry, visual art, political text, performance documentation, and so on. Some are objects with sculptural quality. The books are generally published in small editions, from a single copy to less than a few hundred.

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