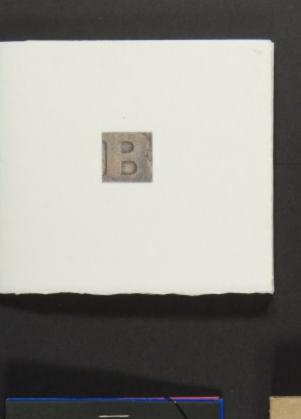


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Its the participating students. Brooken, NY.

OF 300 numbered cooks









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Artist books are at times difficult to classify. There is a great variety of different formats through which artists and writers attempt to bring their ideas before the public, Limited editions, one of a kind examples, livre d'artist, pamphlets inspired by social agendas, mail art, Fluxus whatever the genre, they all share a desire to document highly personalized visions to a select audience. The pleasure of handmade things and the freedom of experimenting without restraint are important to many creative spirits. That this is happening at a time when the "electronic bookstore" and the "on-line library" are making serious inroads into the traditional territory of the printed book is quite astounding. But maybe less so, if the artist book can be seen as a reaction to the digital world. What the makers of artists books all have in common is their devotion to the original, the handmade, to touch and the intimacy of the real thing.

This publication became a reality largely due to this spirit. Continuing a tradition going back almost half a century, students at Pratt Institute have always been involved in making books. B the title of this piece is for Brooklyn - it stands also for Book. Both offer a rich tradition to draw from. It is a sampling of ideas by 9 young artists depicting the ethnic, cultural. historical, and natural diversities to be found in this vital Borough. They are 9 individual views from people living here. including elements such as samplings of earth, a circular subway map, the intriguing banality of statistical data. original photos of Brooklyn settings. historical anecdotes, snapshots of the city by a biking enthusiast, a compilation of its architectural and historic sites, wearart made in Brooklyn, and the special food people eat. B is the result of a collaboration between the Library of the Brooklyn Museum of Art and the Art of the Book curriculum at Pratt Institute.