

This publication grew out of the exhibition *components of a special collection. a collaboration with The University of Auckland Fine Arts Library* at projectspace B431 from March 31st to April 9th, 2011. The exhibition was formed from a desire 1/ to make the Library's collection of artists' books available as a public display and 2/ to identify themes in the collection and open them up to theoretical analysis. Rather than define the collection, the methodology of the project sought to unpack its possibilities. What does the artists' book collection contain? What is its logic and what are its legacies? What knowledge does it offer regarding local traditions? What are the contextual issues attached to it? And what represents best practice?

The exhibition was initiated with a survey of the entire collection of artists' books in the Library. Through this process various approaches, or components, to the practice of book making were identified, which were then used as a curatorial tool to select books for display. Subsequently, by working closely with librarians, these books were presented in projectspace as a pop up reading room and an extension of the library. The assorted themes identified in the collection also underpinned the logic of the contributions requested, and very generously supplied, to this publication - which is the first edition of an ongoing accumulation.

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University of Auckland Library
/ Te Tumu Herenga
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Special Collections

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ARTISTS' BOOK

*Components of a
Special Collection*