

2025 EXHIBITIONS

BOOK BECOMING ART 「芸術になつた本」 JANUARY 18—APRIL 27, 2025



Ryoko Adachi, *Sinn Sammeln [From the Sky]*, 2008. Courtesy of Akiko Sato.

THIS MAJOR EXHIBITION will present a captivating collection of approximately 40 modern and contemporary hand-crafted artist books from Japan and inspired by Japanese aesthetics. The exhibition highlights how Japanese artistry, particularly in bookmaking and print, combines traditional elements such as paper and calligraphy with modern themes and techniques. These limited-edition and one-of-a-kind works celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Japan and its influence on artistic expression, showcasing a blend of sophistication and creativity.

Japanese aesthetics, when applied to bookmaking, yields unique and sophisticated results. The blending of paper, color, calligraphy, technique, and creativity produces visually stunning works that fascinate and inspire a viewer's imagination. The exhibition serves as a testament to the rich cultural heritage, influence, and intellectual vision of Japanese artistic traditions.

This exhibition introduces audiences to an artform that many are not aware of—the art of bookmaking. It also features extraordinary Japanese and Japanese-inspired artists who are little known in the

U.S. The multi-layers of expression of this artmaking will enlighten and captivate viewers. Beyond the “literalness” of books, the exhibition's eclectic blend of artists—all leaders in this artform—stretch the understanding of what a book can be.



Yohei Nishimura, *Webster's Third New International*, 2021. Courtesy of the artist.

NANCY GENN: THE NATURE OF BEING MAY 10—SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

THIS EXHIBITION is a retrospective of Nancy Genn, a Berkeley-based artist, whose long career explores the history of post-war American art in the fields of gestural abstraction and abstract expressionism. Known for her works in a variety of media, including paintings, bronze sculpture, printmaking, and notably, handmade paper rooted in the Japanese washi papermaking tradition, Genn's work addresses cross-cultural connections. Influenced by her extensive travels, and Asian craft, aesthetics, and spiritual traditions, her work features nature's effects of light, landscape, and water, along with the human presence represented by architectural motifs.



Nancy Genn, *Red Abstract with Green*, 1961.

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Genn's work can be found in distinguished collections such as: Achenbach Foundation, San Francisco, CA; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY; American Craft Museum, New York, NY; Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY; Library of Congress, Washington, DC; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York, NY; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; and Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC.

Nancy Genn, *Vessel*, 1966.

LAST WEST: ROADSONGS FOR DOROTHEA LANGE SEPTEMBER 20, 2025—JANUARY 4, 2026



Dorothea Lange, *Toward Los Angeles*, California, March 1937.
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA/OWI Collection,
LC-USF34-016317-E

modernist form in which Lange herself often worked as she reported back to the government bodies who commissioned her works. Additionally, the exhibition will include works by contemporary California artists and poets responding to Lange's work.

This dynamic, multimedia exhibition explores how Dorothea Lange's work might help us better and more deeply engage the beauty and challenges facing California (and our country) now.

LAST WEST is an immersive exhibition and theater piece that explores documentary photographer Dorothea Lange's work and legacy. The fall of 2025 marks the 130th birthday of Dorothea Lange. Lange's black and white poignant and provocative images of migrant farmworkers, internment camps, displaced and homeless families, and more have had a major influence on documentary photography and photojournalism.

Based on original text by award-winning poet Tess Taylor with video projections by Kate Freer, the theatre aspect of the exhibition includes five actors (poet, Lange, man, woman, child) moving against a shifting backdrop of Lange's photographs. The viewer is taken between stories Lange documented and the California we inherit today. The exhibition will also feature a mix of Lange's iconic and rarely seen California images, as well as the artifacts of her documentary process—journal pages, her driving reports, her descriptive captions, and notebooks. The exhibition is designed in the form of a collage, a broad

YOUR SUPPORT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

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- Book Becoming Art*
- Nancy Genn: The Nature of Being*
- Last West: Road Songs for Dorothea Lange*

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