

## THE BMA PRESENTS 130 RARELY SEEN ARTISTS' BOOKS BY PICASSO, MIRO, HOCKNEY, HARTIGAN, AND OTHERS

*Exhibition casts light on little-known works by many renowned artists*

BALTIMORE, MD (February 10, 2017)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) announced today that the museum's most anticipated exhibition of the spring, *Off the Shelf: Modern & Contemporary Artists' Books*, will be on view March 12-June 25, 2017. The exhibition presents more than 130 artists' books—artworks conceived of and produced in book form—and prints by artists such as Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Kiki Smith, David Hockney, and Ed Ruscha. Stephen King, Frank O'Hara, and Robert Creeley are among the 30+ authors represented. More than half of the artists' books and related prints in the exhibition have never before been on view at the BMA.



“This exhibition is an extraordinary opportunity to see how giants of the literary, publishing, and visual arts worlds often combined their talents to create artworks that unfold page by page as text and image harmonize,” said Rena Hoisington, Senior Curator of Prints, Drawings & Photographs. “Artists’ books played a significant role in 20th-century art, and yet, the medium isn’t as widely known as it should be. This exhibition will hopefully increase visitors’ understanding of the unique art form.”

*Off the Shelf* explores a variety of subjects from animals and classic children’s tales such as *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, to works by specific artists, such as Pierre Bonnard, Wassily Kandinsky, and Dieter Roth. Among the many notable collaborations highlighted in the exhibition are *My Pretty Pony* (1988) by Stephen King and Barbara Kruger; *The Departure of the Argonaut* (1986), an enormous volume—more than 4 feet wide when opened—of color lithographs by Francesco Clemente and letterpress text by Albert Salvinio; *1¢ Life* (1964), more than 60 vibrant color lithographs by Jim Dine, Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, and others that accompany poems by Walasse Ting; *Ready for Anything* (1958), Joan Miró’s whimsical color woodcuts with text by Paul Éluard; and *Bestiary, or The Parade of Orpheus* (1911), a book of elaborate animal woodcuts by Raoul Dufy with poems by Guillaume Apollinaire.

Digital images of several of the artist’s books and related videos, including a recording of a self-playing piano using Michalis Pichler’s *A Throw of the Dice will Never Abolish Chance* (2008) as sheet music, will be available for visitors on iPads in the exhibition. Facsimiles of some of the books, as well as English translations of some of the foreign language texts, will also be available.

*Off the Shelf: Modern & Contemporary Artists’ Books* was organized in collaboration with The Johns Hopkins University’s Program in Museums and Society, and supported by The Johns Hopkins University through a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Trust U/W of Helen M. Hughes.

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In the spring of 2016, Rena Hoisington taught the course *Paper Museums: Exhibiting Artists' Books at The Baltimore Museum of Art* for 11 undergraduates from The Johns Hopkins University, Loyola University Maryland, and the Maryland Institute College of Art: Taylor Alessio, Helena Arose, Alaina Arthur, Sarah Braver, Elizabeth Glass, Grace Golden, Jovan Ivezić, Elena Kuivila, Amelia Powell, Julia Raphael, and Mary Turner. These students helped to determine the checklist and thematic organization of the exhibition as well as write the label texts for the books and prints.

### **THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART**

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 95,000 objects—including the largest public holding of works by Henri Matisse. Throughout the museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of American and European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; works by established and emerging contemporary artists; significant artworks from China; stunning Antioch mosaics; and an exceptional collection of art from Africa. The BMA's galleries also showcase examples from one of the nation's finest collections of prints, drawings, and photographs and exquisite textiles from around the world. The 210,000-square-foot museum is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped sculpture gardens. As a major cultural destination for the region, the BMA hosts a dynamic program of exhibitions, events, and educational programs throughout the year. General admission to the BMA is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

General admission to the BMA is free. Special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. The museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit [artbma.org](http://artbma.org).

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**Image:** Artist: Kiki (Kiki O.K.) Kogelnik. Author: Walasse Ting. Pages from the book *1c Life*, 1964. The Baltimore Museum of Art: The Ryda Hecht Levi Collection of Illustrated Books, Bequest of Ryda H. Levi, Baltimore, BMA 2009.42.21. © Kiki Kogelnik and Walasse Ting / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York