

Booklyn

Dana F. Smith

Later Heaven, 2015

Origin: San Francisco, California USA

Medium: ink, digital print

Binding: coptic

Dimensions: 12.0 in W x 12.0 in H

Pages: 34

Edition Size: 8

Description: *Later Heaven* is inspired by the ancient "book" or divination manual currently called the I Ching, or Yi Jing. Also known as "The Book of Changes" it can be traced back as far as 3000 years in written form, and it was probably passed down as oral tradition for 2000 years before that. I Ching is an ancient set of symbols and their interpretations often used as an oracle. It is accompanied by a system of 64 hexagrams where each one defines an archetypal event or universal experience of living. Each hexagram is comprised of two trigrams positioned one above the other. Each trigram is made of three lines where the line is either broken or solid. If one calculates all the possible combinations of the two choices, broken or solid, in groups of three stacked in a vertical pile, the total number of possible combinations is eight. Therefore the fundamental building blocks of the I Ching are the eight Ba Gua, or trigrams, defined as Qian or heaven, Kun or earth, Li or fire, Kan or water, Xun or wind, Zhen or thunder, Dui or lake, and Gen or



mountain. *Later Heaven* contains subjective illustrations of these eight trigrams using photo-collage and poetry derived from translations of the ancient text. The book reflects the way the I Ching combines the trigrams into sixty-four hexagrams by combining two trigrams, one stacked on the other, by having two sets of pages bound one above the other using two spines so that the upper set of pages can be turned or read separately from the lower set of pages. Thus the eight trigram's illustrations can be mixed and combined in 64 different ways by the reader. The book is called "Later Heaven" after a traditional name of one of the many possible ways of sequencing the Ba Gua.

Later Heaven is printed on 55gsm Moab Moenkopi Unryu rice paper using Epson pigment based inks. Each book is hand bound by Dana Smith using a variation of a coptic binding with two spines, one at the top and the other at the bottom to enable the creation of the various hexagrams by the reader. The cover is digitally printed on silk moire bookbinding material over boards. Each book is housed in a custom hand-made box. Signed by the artist and blindstamped.

Institutional Collectors:

Library of Congress (LoC)
Wesleyan University
Bayerische Staatsbibliothek

Exhibitions:

Los Angeles Art Book Fair 2016 (LAABF 2016)

Booklyn Artists Alliance - 37 Greenpoint Avenue, Suite E4G / Box 23 Brooklyn, NY 11222

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