

Simon Goode: London Centre for Book Arts at MCBA

June 26, 2017



Simon Goode is the founder and director for the London Centre for Book Arts, an artist-run, open-access resource and education centre dedicated to book arts and artist-led publishing.

Goode presents “Making Books” during the Minnesota Center for Book Arts (MCBA) Book Art Biennial Symposium July 22-23. For more information go to BookArtBiennial.org.

How have you amplified individual and collective voice through your art?

I like to think that, in some way, we have encouraged and fostered a multitude of artists through running the Centre that may not have had a chance to create their work otherwise. The space is at its best when the studio members, volunteers, Ira and myself are there, and just getting on with our thing it may be individual projects, or a

collaborative work, or even just an occasion where someone needs to chat through an idea.

How does the MCBA Book Art Biennial theme “Shout Out: Community Intervention, Independent Publishing, and Alternative Distribution” inform your work?

The theme of this year’s MCBA competition is something that is foundational in my practice as an artist and in turn as director of *London Centre for Book Arts*. My partner, Ira Yonemura, and I started *LCBA* with the hope of creating a space where artists and the community could affordably access resources to create and edition books and publications – a space open to everyone, regardless of background, education, or expertise.

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned as an artist?

Don’t bite off more than you can chew – pragmatism is something we pride ourselves on at the Centre.

What is your greatest success as an artist?

Establishing LCBA. *“Making Books: A guide to creating hand-crafted books by the London Centre for Book Arts”* will be published in the UK in August and in the US in November, which Ira and I wrote together. We’re excited to spread the word, and to encourage as many people as possible to create their own books.

What called you to the book arts as a profession?

Not sure if it was a calling, but I do remember carrying around a briefcase full paper that I would cut and paste when I was about six. I had a slightly clearer idea of what I wanted to do during Foundation, studying art when I was 18.

Who do you admire and why?

Clive Phillpot. He was the director of the library at the Museum of Modern Art who built their collection of artist’s books and has been an advocate for the artist’s book for more than 40 years, as a critic, editor, and curator.

What characteristic do you admire most in creative people?

Focus.

What qualities are you most proud of?

I’m not sure I’m best qualified to answer that one.

What quotation inspires you to follow your passion?

“Rule 7: The only rule is work. If you work it will lead to something. It’s the people who do all of the work all of the time who eventually catch on to things.” —Sister Corita Kent

BIO:

[Simon Goode](#) founded London Centre for Book Arts in 2011 with fellow artist Ira Yonemura. Goode, who graduated in Book Arts and Crafts from London College of Communication in 2006, says that the official opening of LCBA was the culmination of seven years of planning, with the catalyst being his three-month road trip visiting America’s many dedicated spaces for book arts, papermaking, bookbinding and typesetting, including MCBA.