

The Book Remembers Everything: The Work of Erica Van Horn

An Exhibition at Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library

January 13—March 27, 2010



In the work of American artist and writer Erica Van Horn, books collect, absorb, make use of, and transform remnants and reminders. From fragments and pieces, what is left behind and what might otherwise be forgotten, Van Horn makes meaning in beautiful and unexpected ways. “I use the portability of the printed sheet, mostly in book form,” Van Horn writes, “to construct a narrative around the incidental parts of my life.” During a career that has spanned more than thirty years, the artist’s body of work has included prints and works on paper, elaborately illustrated unique books, and printed and editioned works in a wide variety of formats.

Throughout her career, Van Horn has woven together her methods and preoccupations into a common fabric of artistic practice and subject. Her interest in exploring the daily aspects of her life through her art, for instance, is informed and determined by her frequent use and reuse of ordinary and cast-off materials as the raw materials of her work. In remembering and making beautiful mundane aspects of life, Van Horn celebrates the significant but often unnoticed habits and customs of family and friendship, the exquisite qualities of home, the work of making art. Her attention to the “everyday” is an act of recording that which is most important to her; Van Horn creates work that serves as an aid to memory and as a hedge against the inevitable passing of one day to the next. In this way, Van Horn’s work is a kind of talisman against the eventual end of a ritual, a place, a relationship, a person. *continued*



EXHIBITION WEBSITE: beinecke.library.yale.edu/exhibitions/vanhorn

Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Yale University, PO Box 208240, 121 Wall Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06520-8240

www.library.yale.edu/beinecke 203-432-2977

For more information, including image use and credit

Rebecca Martz, Public Relations Coordinator, rebecca.martz@yale.edu, 203-432-2969

Nancy Kuhl, Curator, Collection of American Literature, nancy.kuhl@yale.edu, 203-432-2966



“The Book Remembers Everything: The Work of Erica Van Horn,” highlights the Beinecke Library’s outstanding collection of Erica Van Horn’s work, representing all aspects of the artist’s development, calling special attention to several themes: the artist’s frequent exploration of the details of her life, the objects around her, the routines of her days, and her most familiar relationships; her long fascination with the ways language both describes and creates community, even as it determines individual identity and shapes personal memory; Van Horn’s interest in the essential elements of narrative forms and structures, in both word and image; and the artist’s frequent use and re-use of saved or salvaged materials as the raw materials

of her work, documenting her creative process and making both beauty and meaning from fragments and remainders.

Erica Van Horn will visit the Beinecke Library for a public conversation with Beinecke curator, Nancy Kuhl, on February 24, 2010, at 4pm. Van Horn will discuss her development as an artist and writer, her artistic process, her influences and inspirations. The conversation will refer directly to materials on view in the current exhibition.

Born in Concord, New Hampshire, Erica Van Horn now lives in rural Tipperary, Ireland, where she is the publisher, with Simon Cutts, of Coracle, a small press producing creative and critical works of various kinds in small editions. To contact the artist, visit Coracle (www.coracle.ie).



EXHIBITION WEBSITE: beinecke.library.yale.edu/exhibitions/vanhorn

Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library
Yale University, PO Box 208240, 121 Wall Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06520-8240
www.library.yale.edu/beinecke 203-432-2977

For more information, including image use and credit

Rebecca Martz, Public Relations Coordinator, rebecca.martz@yale.edu, 203-432-2969
Nancy Kuhl, Curator, Collection of American Literature, nancy.kuhl@yale.edu, 203-432-2966