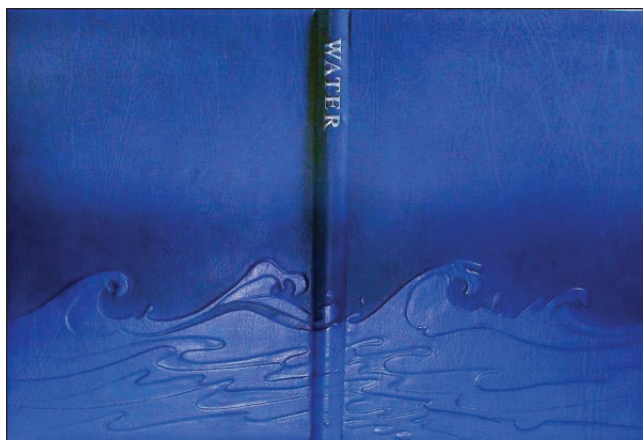


in Minneapolis, where she owned Western Slope Bindery, specializing in custom binding and repair of books. Jana focused her artistic energies on design binding and showed her work in national and international exhibitions.

Jana was an exceptional teacher, and for thirty years shared her deep knowledge of papermaking and bookmaking through classes and workshops. She taught at the University of Iowa, University of Minnesota, MCBA, Carleton College, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, University of Utah, Penland School of Craft, Guild of Book Workers Standards conferences, and art centers and conferences across the U.S.

Her awards include two Best Binding Awards in the DeGolyer Competition for American Bookbinding, hosted by Southern Methodist University's Bridwell Library, the DeGolyer winner for Best Design, and the 2013 Minnesota Book Artist of the Year. She was also recognized in the 2006 MCBA Ignited Bookbinding Competition for Overall Excellence. Jana's books are part of many public and private libraries, archives, and collections across the U.S., including the Minnesota Historical Society, Chicago Public Library, and University of Utah Marriott Library.



First and foremost, however, Jana will always be remembered for her gentle spirit and limitless generosity, and for sharing her extensive knowledge of the book arts with students, colleagues, and friends. Jana, we will miss you.

### MADelyn GARRETT

Retired University of Utah rare book curator and working book artist Madelyn Garrett creates one-of-a-kind books. Madelyn has lectured extensively on the history of the book, established a nationally-recognized book arts program, led the Marriott Library's own Red Butte Press fine press printing program, and conceived and developed a statewide K–12 history-of-the-book program for Utah's children. She was a professional associate of the American Institute for Conservation and remains a long-time member of the Guild of Book Workers.



Examples of Jana's exquisitely wrought fine bindings.

## Pamela Spitzmueller

October 7, 1950 – March 13, 2025

Pamela Spitzmueller grew up in suburban Chicago, "making things" in her father's wood workshop. After graduating from the University of Illinois with a degree in art education, she went on to study bookbinding with the book conservator Gary Frost of the Newberry Library, where she worked from 1976 to 1983. There, she broke traditional gender barriers by becoming the first woman trained in assignments requiring physical strength and artistic decision-making.

by Julia Miller and Shannon Zachary

After moving to Washington, D.C., Spitzmueller worked in the Library of Congress as a rare book conservator. She was invited in 1989 to direct the University of Iowa's Conservation Department and serve as an associate professor in the School of Art and Art History. In 1998, Spitzmueller was appointed the first James H. Needham Chief Conservator for Special Collections at Harvard University's Library Preservation Center.

She received a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant in 1979, an Andrew Mellon Foundation Grant in 1993, and a Kress Foundation Fellowship in 1992.

Spitzmueller frequently dedicated her artists' books to her favorite poets and artists, and in 1998, Spitzmueller was asked to create an artist's book for Hillary Rodham Clinton. For Hillary includes the poem "Fate Conspires to Strengthen Us" by Anne Dutlinger.<sup>1</sup>

Concurrent with being an outstanding book conservator and artist, Pamela traveled extensively to research historical book structures, teach (and take) workshops, and see the world. She was an active and influential member of the national and international book conservation and book arts communities, influencing many colleagues and students. In particular, she served as a Paper and Book Intensive (PBI) co-director for over a decade.

Pam retired from Harvard University in 2012 and was able to spend a number of years continuing her travels, her research, her teaching, and her gardening. She moved from Boston to Ann Arbor, Michigan, in March of 2021. Pamela entered hospice care for complications due to dementia/Alzheimers and died on March 13, 2025. Pamela will be buried in Forest Hill cemetery in Ann Arbor. She is survived by her sister, Claudia

<sup>1</sup>Biography based on Pam's page on the National Museum of Women in the Arts website, [nmwa.org/art/artists/pamela-spitzmueller/](https://nmwa.org/art/artists/pamela-spitzmueller/)

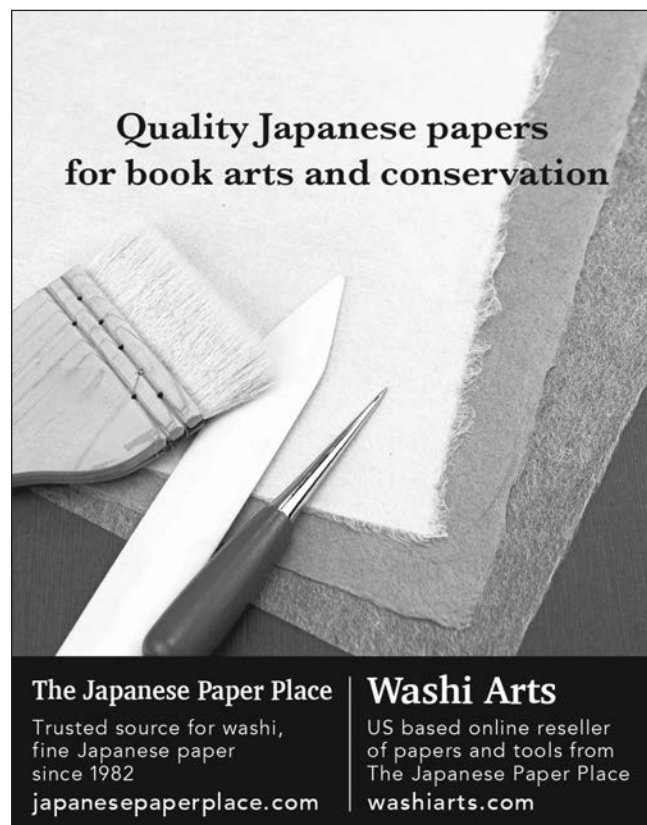
Johnson and her husband Mark, and her sister-in-law Nancy Spitzmueller (Bosque Farms, NM). Please send condolences to Claudia at 54 Patricio Rd., Los Lunas NM, 87031.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Pamela's name to the Guild of Book Workers or to your regional Guild chapter—Pam loved the Guild, and taught for most if not all the chapters. In November 2024, Pam received the prestigious Guild Lifetime Achievement Award—an honor and wonderful recognition for her years of dedication to the Guild and its mission.

There is no possible way to fully express the loss Pamela's illness and death represent to her community of friends and the historical research she was so skilled at—that community includes her own teachers, her colleagues, everyone she worked with, and her many students. The gains she made in research before her death are legendary, and those she inspired and taught will carry her ideas and her example forward in their own work and teaching.

In an artists' book she made in homage to Frank O'Hara, one of the lines she borrowed from O'Hara's poem "In Memory of My Feelings" is this:

"I rise into the cool skies..."



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