

University Gallery
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 09/05/07

WHAT: *EX LIBRIS: Matthew Higgs and Peter Wüthrich*

WHEN: September 26 - December 9, 2007

Opening Reception: Wednesday, September 26, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

"In Conversation" Matthew Higgs and Peter Wüthrich
Wednesday, September 26, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

WHERE: University Gallery, Fine Arts Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst
free and open to the public

A Vanguard Exhibition in Conjunction with *BookMarks*.

We open on September 26th with the highly anticipated exhibition *EX LIBRIS: Matthew Higgs and Peter Wüthrich*, planned to coincide with *BookMarks*, a region-wide celebration of the book sponsored by Museums10 in fall 2007. This exhibition brings together two internationally acclaimed artists, Matthew Higgs (UK) and Peter Wüthrich (Switzerland), who explore the book as "found" conceptual art and sculptural form.

For the past fifteen years, Matthew Higgs' signature works have been made from book pages and covers carefully taken from their binding and original context to make unique works that have surprising impact and wit. They are either framed title pages extracted from an existing book or an altered version of a book cover.

Peter Wüthrich makes reference to Minimalist sculpture and monochrome painting, simulating and creating landscapes and objects with playful use of form and color. The book as object and metaphor has constituted the key of his artistic practice since the early 1990s.

Their art is an inexhaustible inventory of forms and styles, by its intrinsic components: typography, grammar, ink and colors, illustrations, bindings, covers, and bookmarks. The results are as much about poetry as about art, and represent a contemporary homage to the book.

Matthew Higgs is represented by *Murray Guy* in NYC. He is director of *White Columns* in NYC and is a regular contributor to *Artforum*.

Peter Wüthrich has had recent exhibitions at *Galleria Christian Stein* in Milan, *Kunsthalle* in Winterthur, *Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea* in Santiago de Compostela, and has participated in numerous group shows internationally including *Laure Genillard Gallery*, London; *Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art*, Nagoya; *Ham Gallery*, Nagoya. This will be his premiere museum exhibition in the United States.