



The Delaware Valley Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers

Call for Entries:

Whimsy, A Book Arts Exhibition at The Rosenbach Museum & Library

The Delaware Valley Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers invites submissions for a three-month exhibition at The Rosenbach Museum & Library, opening April 15, 2027.

This call welcomes creative variations on the theme of Whimsy, celebrating the playful, fantastical possibilities of book arts from past histories to future visions. Whether you are drawn to intricate pop-ups, eccentric texts, inventive structures, or light-hearted illustrations, we want to see your unique interpretations of this theme.

To help spark creativity, Bryn Michelson-Ziegler, Associate Curator and Manager of Public Programs at The Rosenbach, will host our chapter for an exclusive, hands-on inspiration visit this fall to explore the collection. This visit will feature whimsical treasures such as *The Poetical Vagaries of the Night of the Folding Stick of Paste Castle*, unique miniatures, pop-ups, and more. Date of visit will be in the first week of November; details soon.

This exhibition will be installed in two glass cases and one antique secretary desk – you can decide to create your submission for secure display or high-touch / take-away possibilities.

Due to limited space and depending upon number of participants, this exhibition may be juried.

Important Dates

- By October 15: Intent to Participate to delawarevalleyexhibitions@guildofbookworkers.org
- First week in November: Inspiration Visit; details soon
- By Friday, March 5: Submissions Due – In-person drop-off location is UPenn Libraries, details to follow
- April 15: Exhibition opens to the public
- Early July: Exhibition ends
- TBD: Pick-up – In-person pick-up at Penn Libraries or mailed via pre-paid USPS box

Dimensions of finished works: TBD



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Physical Accessibility

The Rosenbach is wheelchair accessible at the south entrance. To access this entrance, please call 215-732-1600 ext. 110 for assistance. Otherwise, Delancy Street main entrance has stairs. Second floor galleries where exhibition will be installed is accessible via elevator or stairs.

Security

The Rosenbach will care for exhibited pieces as it does its own collections, but any insurance for exhibited artwork will be the responsibility of the artist. This exhibition will be displayed across two glass cases and one antique secretary desk. The glass cases are secure. The Desk invites hands-on touch or possibility to create take-aways such as Zines, etc.; the desk will not be monitored during open hours.

Important Information

- You must be a member of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers for the duration of the project
- Philadelphia in-person drop off location is UPenn Library – you will need to text to arrange – all details to follow
- Shipped books MUST fit in a USPS flat rate box with return postage paid and shipped to University of Pennsylvania Library – details and mailing address to follow
- Participants will be responsible for their own postage and shipping costs
- A pre-paid return label must be e-mailed to the DVC for return
- More specifics can be found on the Delaware Valley Chapter website or by emailing:
delawarevalleyexhibitions@guildofbookworkers.org

Reminders and updates will only be sent to those with intent to participate.

Exhibition questions?

Email: delawarevalleyexhibitions@guildofbookworkers.org