



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

San Diego Public Library

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Wangenheim Room Partners with SDSU Book Artists for Inspirational Book Arts and Artifacts Exhibition

SAN DIEGO ... Seven talented San Diego State University (SDSU) Book Artists, who were inspired by the Central Library's Wangenheim Room, will have their books showcased in an exhibition entitled, "*Make It New: SDSU Book Artists Studying With Michele Burgess Respond to the Wangenheim Room Collection.*" The exhibit will run April 7 to May 8, 2008 in the Wangenheim Room on the 3rd floor of the Central Library at 820 E Street, in downtown San Diego.

Michele Burgess, co-director of the Brighton Press in San Diego and professor of the Advanced Art of the Book class at SDSU, visited the Wangenheim Room with her students and selected seven Wangenheim Room pieces— a 4,000 year-old Babylonian clay cuneiform tablet, a 13th century Latin Bible, a Chinese silk scroll dated 1651, a Singhalese prayer book on palm leaves, a miniature book, a 17th century dictionary, and a miniature Buddhist scroll of Japanese wooden block print from about 770 A.D, which is considered to be the earliest piece of block printing. The students were tasked with creating their own books inspired by the Wangenheim Room artifacts. But, there was an added instruction to "make it new" or more contemporary for our times. This exhibition is the culmination of the students' collective vision and will be displayed together with the selected Wangenheim items.

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The SDSU Book Artists themselves are as diverse and interesting as their works. Some are graphic designers, printmakers, and painters and some are visiting students from Russia, Turkey and China. They are Bevis Cheng, Meric Karabulut, Handan Tepe, Lyubov Klimova, Jill Hollingsworth, Michelle Mellem, and Jenny Yoshida Park.

The [Wangenheim Room](#), which holds collections of rare books and other valuable items, is open to the public from Monday through Saturday, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

For more information about the exhibition, please call Heidi Wigler at 619-236-5807.

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