



KENT'S BOOK CORNER

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BY KENT HALL / IN INSPIRATION / NO COMMENTS

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Kent's Book Corner: Art Books for Art Works

Since the beginning, Blurb has been a place people come to to make books with their art. And there are some really amazing ones that have been made with us. This month, though, I'm taking a look at self-published art books that showcase a whole conceptual project—including some that, if it weren't for a book, couldn't be reproduced at all. From the journey of an inflatable duck to an artist's illustrated envelopes to a collection of trash, this month's books break down (museum) walls and explore the world in creative ways.



The Duck's Diaries

7x7 Photo Book

Made with [PDF Uploader](#)

Brooklyn-based artist [Cibele Vieira](#)'s book takes a seemingly child-like activity—floating an inflatable golden duck down a river—to create a work that is funny, strange, and profound. As the duck floats and bobs through bodies of water from Brooklyn to Brazil, it becomes both a witness and a catalyst to interactions between humans, their environment, and even Vieira herself. It's a travelogue of the most unusual sort and commemorates an artwork that can never be reproduced.



Forty Fridas

8×10 Photo Book

Made with [Adobe InDesign](#)

[Ellen Heck](#) started *Forty Fridas* with an Internet image search for women and girls dressed up as artist Frida Kahlo. With the permission of each, she recreated the photos as copperplate etchings. It's a heartbreakingly beautiful study of identity, centered on an artist known for self-representation, whose image is perhaps more famous than her paintings.



Ben Schonzeit: My Idea of Play

13×11 Photo Book

Made with [Adobe InDesign](#)

Active since the 1960s, [Ben Schonzeit](#) is an artist long known for bold and grand photo-realistic renderings of fish, fruit, and cakes—as well as large mind-bending painted “photo collages” and multi-room murals depicting illusionistic space. The subject of this book, photographed by Kimberly M. Wang, is decidedly smaller: paintings on envelopes that he sends to friends. The book shows Schonzeit’s process, from large to small, from public to intimate. It’s an ode to the beauty of small projects—and of letting go.



Bureau of Suspended Objects

Three 8×10 Trade Books

Created with Adobe InDesign

Jenny Odell's art is one of concept and cataloging. As an artist-in-residence at San Francisco's waste removal facility (yes, this is a thing), Odell became fascinated with the provenance of the objects that pass through the massive recycling and landfill facility. This all became a part of a larger project called the Bureau of Suspended objects. She classifies objects as "new objects" (purchased from mass retail stores), "in use" (selected from her parents' home), and "discarded objects" (culled from Recology). She then painstakingly traces the objects to their origins: factories in China, marble mines in South America. From photos of an anonymous Marine's tour of duty in Vietnam, to a Homer Simpson doll, this trilogy is designed to make us think about the value of objects and the vast lifecycle of our global supply chain.



Kent Hall

Kent is a writer and visual artist who holds a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing. His work has appeared in various forms at 826 Valencia, 111 Minna, and many places across the web. He also obsessively journals with photos and words while traveling the world as a Blurb brand ambassador. In his spare time he tracks down Warhol shows, takes oodles of Polaroids, and is working to perfect the gin martini.

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