



The Institute Library
New Haven, Connecticut

The Gallery Upstairs at the Institute Library
presents the exhibition
Melted Pots & Cooked Books
Sept 14-Dec 14, 2019

For further information and press inquiries, please contact Gallery@Institutelibrary.org

About the exhibit:

We all come from somewhere else whether by choice or under duress, and we bring with us memories, recipes and comfort in edible form. As these recipes travel, they also change and adapt to local products and available cooking methods. “American Cuisine” is a crucible of admixed cultures, histories, cuisines, spices and traditions. **Melted Pots and Cooked Books** is the fall/winter exhibit at the library focusing on our collective shifting and intersecting food experiences. Our celebrations are enactments of old traditions, blended with new innovations, contemporary preferences and often necessary modifications and modernizations. This project interacts with those from both oral and written traditions and seeks to engage all the senses, including scent and taste, into the traditional word and image setting of the art gallery.

Melted Pots and Cooked Books also goes outside of the traditional gallery boundaries in that it includes domestic items and objects not commonly demarcated as “art”, and will highlight the cultural importance and relevance of such things as family recipes and tools as art by displaying them with aesthetic care and respect. The exhibit will include relevant books to provide a historical grounding to the show and connect past views of “American Cuisine” with how we presently define ourselves.

Melted Pots and Cooked Books posits that breaking bread together is interactive art in one of its most immediate and profound manifestations, and something in which **we all participate**. Sharing food with others is a universal act of generosity which allows cross-cultural conversations to start, stories to flow, memories and personages to come alive in the moment. The exhibit aims to access and examine this collective social mechanism through the gallery exhibit and related events including tastings, gatherings and readings. The show brings history, humor, creativity and variety to look at how we celebrate holidays, occasions for gathering, and nourish each other. Food and its production are universal necessities for our survival, but they are also ritualized, collective art.

This exhibit features over 30 contributors from the community and will including artworks, utensils, photographs, textiles, videos, recipes, cookbooks, food-related objects and ephemera from all over the globe. The Gallery will be hosting monthly events throughout the exhibition, partnering with local organizations and institutions including: ***Sanctuary Kitchen, The Language Chef, Nadine Nelson/ Global Local Gourmet, Common Ground High school*** and ***Deep Roots/ The Public Humanities Department at Yale***. A Catalog/ Cookbook will memorialize this exhibit.

Exhibition Participants:

Marion Belanger, Beth Castle-Lovell, Vanessa Chiriboga, Eric Cocks, Jeanne Criscola, Terry Dagradi, Shelley Dell, Nike Desis, Joan Fitzsimmons, Kathryn Frund, Donna Golden, Lys Guillorn, Clymenza Hawkins, Wieslaw Jarmulowicz, Marcy Juran, Helen Kauder, Bob Keating, Ann Kennedy, Maria Lara-Whelpley, Jessica Levine, Jezrie Marcano- Courtney, MaryJane Millington, Harry Minot, Nadine Nelson, Adam Niklewicz, Jan Ohye, Amy Rostkowski, Scott Schuldt, Gil Scullion, Linda Secondari, Rebecca Scotka, Donna Soohoo, Pete Stewart, Daina Taimina.

The *Melted Pots and Cooked Books* Team:

Martha Willette Lewis, Resident Curator, is an artist and avid cook, and creator of this project. She has organized over 11 exhibits for the library, partnering with varied groups and institutions throughout the community to enrich and expand the library's audiences and connections.

Joy M. Pepe: Lead Text Editor and Exhibit Consultant. Joy is a distinguished Art Historian, Curator and Professor who joins us here to advise on the exhibit and to work with all things text-based, including labels, binder and catalog copy.

Robert Aiudi, *The Language Chef* is acting as our **Linguist, Translator and Recipe Editor**. Robert is a professional Linguist who teaches language through cooking. He will be generously editing and translating for the catalog and events.

Eva Geertz: Library Operations Manager, will be running the Library and its volunteers. Eva is additionally a writer and book dealer with a special interest in cookbooks.

Ann Marlowe: Events Manager. Ann oversees coordinating the hospitality during events, and is an author, editor and staunch library supporter.

Scott Schuldt: Exhibition Engineer, will be problem-solving the complexities of the exhibit installation. Scott is an artist and former Boeing engineer, as well as an active member of the library board.

Judy Sirota Rosenthal: Photography & Documentation. Judy will make sure our catalog has rich, lively images of the exhibit and its events. Judy is a professional photographer and artist, living in Hamden, CT.

Susan McCaslin: Web Design. Susan will be making our online presence up-to-date and beautiful. Susan is an artist and graphic designer and is also one of the deeply appreciated *Friends of the Library Upstairs at the Institute Library*.

The Board of the Institute Library, and all the wonderful **Library Volunteers** who support the Library and its gallery in myriad ways, and who tirelessly keep the ship sailing.

The Gallery Upstairs at The Institute Library is a not-for-profit exhibition space which showcases contemporary artists in group exhibitions, linking the Library's historic assortment of books, by presenting exhibitions revolving around words, books, archives or collections. The exhibitions often explore pressing issues surrounding social justice and the human condition through the lens of history, via engaging, visual means.

This project is being made possible by an award from the **International Association of New Haven**, and by the **Friends of the Gallery Upstairs at the Institute Library**. We are grateful for the generous support.

