Columbia One Look: Ediciones Vigía’s Art of the Book and Our Creative Response

In conjunction with the Mizzou Advantage international and interdisciplinary conference, Cultural Bricolage: Artist Books of Cuba’s Ediciones Vigía, to be held November 11 - 13, 2012 at the University of Missouri-Columbia.
Columbia’s One Look program began when Juanamaría Cordones-Cook introduced a group of artists, educators, and historians to art books designed by the Cuban artist, Rolando Estévez Jordán, and produced by the publishing house he co-founded, Ediciones Vigía. We fell in love with the works for their ingenuity and playfulness, as well as for the fact they reminded us that books are more than words printed on a page or displayed on a screen: they are material objects with the potential to engage all our senses, and in doing so, encourage us to look at the words — and the world — in entirely new ways.

The exhibitions listed in this guide showcase how Estévez’s books inspired the entire Columbia community, from preschoolers to adults, to consider the art of the book and to create their own. We hope you visit all these sites to see, feel, hear, smell, and touch what a difference a book makes!

Cathy Callaway
Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Missouri

Kristin Schwain
Department of Art History and Archaeology, University of Missouri
Ediciones Vigía is an independent publishing house located in Matanzas, Cuba, known since the nineteenth century as the “Athens of Cuba.” Rolando Estévez Jordán, a visual artist, and Alfredo Zaldívar, a poet, co-founded Vigía in 1985 to create a space for writers and artists to gather and discuss their work. The group began creating single-sheet flyers that advertised meeting times, and eventually evolved into a publishing house. Since then, writers, designers, and volunteers have been working collaboratively to publish handmade books that combine art and literature.

Unlike other publishing houses that digitally print hundreds of copies of books on fresh clean paper, Vigía uses repurposed and recycled materials such as paper from the local butcher, yarn, fabric, leaves, dried flowers, tin foil, and various other materials to build a limited number of volumes, with a maximum of two hundred. Each issue is made by hand in the Matanzas workshop by a group of artisans, resulting in unique objects that feature the same text, form, and general imagery but sometimes differ in artistic details. All of the components of the books—the materials, the design, the text, the images, the movable parts—connect to each other and the author’s writing. Through their sensory interactions with the books, viewers are invited to interpret these layered and complex works in equally layered and complex ways.

Kim Nochi, Independent Scholar

**The Art of Rolando Estévez Jordán and Ediciones Vigía**

**TITLE:** Rolando Estévez and the Genius of Vigía  
**VENUE:** Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Missouri (MAA)  
**Dates:** November 3, 2012-March 17, 2013  
The Museum of Art and Archaeology’s feature exhibition displays one-of-a-kind artworks and books designed by Estévez in the Museum’s collection. Situated in the Barton Gallery, the exhibition emphasizes the tactility of the works—their various sizes and shapes as well as the diverse materials they employ— to underscore how they require a reader’s dynamic interaction with them.

The Museum of Art and Archaeology advances understanding of our artistic and cultural heritage through research, collection and interpretation. We help students, scholars and the broader community to experience authentic and significant art and artifacts firsthand and to place them in meaningful contexts. We further this mission by preserving, enhancing and providing access to the collections for the benefit of present and future generations.

**Hours:**  
Tuesday-Friday: 9am-4pm  
Thursday: until 8pm  
Saturday & Sunday: 12pm-4pm  
Closed Holidays

http://maa.missouri.edu/
**TITLE:** The Art and History of Ediciones Vigía  
**VENUE:** vigia.missouri.edu

This on-line exhibition and catalog of Ediciones Vigía publications in the collection of the Museum of Art and Archaeology was produced by graduate students in a museum studies course co-taught by Cathy Callaway, Museum of Art and Archaeology, and Kristin Schwain, Department of Art History and Archaeology. They produced labels and extended essays on individual books; often, their entries are the first close analyses of these challenging and sophisticated works. Authors include: Lyria Bartlett, Lauren Bartshe, Niki Eaton, Campbell Garland, Sarah Jones, Aimee Koon, Kim Nochi, and Alyssa Wolfman.

The website http://vigia.missouri.edu is the home for the University’s international conference on the press, Cultural Bricolage: Artist Books of Cuba’s Ediciones Vigía. At the conclusion of the conference, it will serve as a permanent host for Vigía art and scholarship.

http://vigia.missouri.edu

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**TITLE:** Works on Paper by Rolando Estévez Jordán  
**VENUE:** The George Caleb Bingham Gallery, University of Missouri

**Dates:** Monday, November 5-Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Large unframed works on paper by Estévez, best known for his work with Ediciones Vigía, will be displayed at the Bingham Gallery. Spanning 1979 to the present, the featured works have been chosen to represent a lifetime of production.

The Bingham Gallery will host a reception for the artist on Monday, November 12 from 5:30-7:30pm. Estèvez will give translated remarks about his work at 6:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

The George Caleb Bingham Gallery hosts exhibits of contemporary art in a variety of media. The gallery’s yearly schedule includes Undergraduate and M.F.A. Thesis Exhibits as well as two Invitational Exhibits per year, which spotlight internationally recognized artists like Estévez.

**Hours:**  
Monday–Friday: 8am–5pm  
Closed Holidays

binghamgallery.missouri.edu
**TITLE:** The Magical World of Ediciones Vigía  
**VENUE:** Ellis Library, University of Missouri

**Dates:** October 30—November 27, 2012  
The Library’s Colonnade is the exhibiting space for Dr. Juanamaria Cordones-Cook’s collection of Vigía books, amassed during her annual research trips to Cuba. First introduced to the press by the Cuban poet Nancy Morejón, Cordones-Cook developed a close relationship with Estévez and the press. This display of rarely seen and in some cases one-of-a-kind books showcases the scholar’s keen interest in fine poetry and the fascinating art of Vigía books.

In support of the instruction, research, service and economic development programs of the University, the MU Libraries acquire, preserve and make accessible scholarly resources; provide instruction, develop innovative services and apply new information technologies to achieve a single overarching purpose: to serve the needs of our users.

**Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday: 7:30am – 2am  
Friday: 7:30am – 8pm  
Saturday: 9am – 8pm  
Sunday: 12pm – 2am

[mulibraries.missouri.edu](mailto:mulibraries.missouri.edu)

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**TITLE:** We’re In This Together  
**VENUE:** Perlow-Stevens Gallery

**Dates:** October 3-December 29, 2012  
The Gallery will be showcasing its exhibition, *We’re in this Together*, curated by artist Kim Wardenburg (St. Louis, MO). The show was organized in response to artist books made by the Cuban publishing collective, Ediciones Vigía. Expanding on the idea of material improvisation, a defining characteristic of the Vigía projects, *We’re in this Together* explores eight artists’ books as devices for improvisational performance, navigation, and interaction within an environment extending beyond the books themselves.

The Gallery will be hosting a reception for the exhibit from 5:00-7:00 on November 13, 2012, at the conclusion of the conference. All are welcome to attend!

Located in the North Village Arts District, the Perlow-Stevens Gallery features local, regional, and national artists in rotating exhibitions.

**Hours:**  
Tuesday-Saturday: 1-6pm  
Sunday: 11am-4pm

[www.perlow-stevensgallery.com](http://www.perlow-stevensgallery.com)
**TITLE:** The Art of the Book: Covered!  
**VENUE:** Daniel Boone Regional Library- Columbia Branch

**Dates:** Present-November 30, 2012  
A collection of artwork created by children and young adults is on display on the third floor of the Columbia branch of the Daniel Boone Regional Library. Taking inspiration from Ediciones Vigía, the artworks on display were created during family events held at the University of Missouri’s Museum of Art and Archaeology in July and September. Organized by Cathy Callaway and Mary Franco, these events focused on Vigía’s use of recycled materials and found objects. The first set of works was on display from July 21st to September 30th. The second set is on view until November 30th.

The Columbia branch of DBRL is the largest public library in the region. It features an important collection of local artists’ works, including two prominent on-site sculptures.

**Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday: 9am-9pm  
Friday: 9am-6 pm  
Saturday: 9am-5pm  
Sunday: 1-5pm

dbrl.org/columbia-public-library

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**TITLE:** In the Spirit of Vigía: Artist Books from the MU Department of Art Fibers Program  
**VENUE:** MSA/GPC Craft Studio Gallery, University of Missouri

**Dates:** November 5-November 16, 2012  
The one-of-a-kind artbooks created by invited student artists from the MU Fibers Program as well as distinguished program alumni are on display at the Craft Studio. In the spirit of Ediciones Vigía, the eclectic assortment of artists’ books invites viewers to reconsider traditional boundaries of the book as object through the use of creative structures, innovative media and unique narrative approaches.

The Craft Studio, supported by the Missouri Student Association and Graduate Professional Council, welcomes University of Missouri students and members of the Columbia community to participate in arts and crafts projects, geared toward cultivating their individual creativity.

**Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday: 10am -9pm  
Friday: 10am-6pm  
Saturday: Noon-6 pm  
Sunday: Noon-4 p.m.

craftstudio.missouri.edu/
TITLE: In the Spirit of Vigía: Artist Books from the MU Department of Art Fibers Program  
VENUE: Fine Arts Building  
Dates: October 29-November 23, 2012  
The one-of-a-kind artbooks created by invited student artists from the MU Fibers Program as well as distinguished program alumni are on display in the halls of the Fine Arts Building. In the spirit of Ediciones Vigía, the eclectic assortment of artists’ books invites viewers to reconsider traditional boundaries of the book as object through the use of creative structures, innovative media, and unique narrative approaches.

The Fiber program within the Department of Art has a longstanding tradition of artists books and is pleased to be a participant in the Cultural Bricolage: Artist Books of Cuba’s Ediciones Vigía Conference. This exhibition features a few of the books that have been produced in recent years and illustrates the variety of approaches taken by emerging MU artists.

Hours:  
Monday-Friday: 8am-10pm

http://art.missouri.edu/

TITLE: The Design, Construction & Re-Imagination of Books  
VENUE: University of Missouri Student Center  
Dates: November 1-31, 2012  
Beginning-level design students in the Department of Architectural Studies created works inspired by the artistic processes of Estévez and Vigía. After selecting a design manifesto written by a 20th century architect, students in Lyria Bartlett’s class produced hand-made constructions that reflected the manifestos’ social and technological agendas as well as three key characteristics of Vigía publications: the use of found materials; elements of surprise; and interactive parts.

The University of Missouri officially opened the Student Center on October 22, 2010. It is the most dynamic facility on the Columbia campus, integrating conference, lecture and study rooms; informal meeting areas; dining facilities; student organization offices; and the University bookstore.

Hours:  
7:00am-Midnight

www.unions.missouri.edu/msc_tab
**Location:** 901 East Rollins Street. The Student Center is located just south of Ellis Library. The works are exhibited in the Lower Lair Lounge, located on the South side of the lower level, just off the main staircase.

**TITLE:** Cover to Cover: Dressing by the Book  
**VENUE:** University of Missouri Student Center  
**Dates:** October 31-November 19, 2012  
Using Vigía’s handmade books as inspiration, students in Jean Parsons’s course in Textiles and Apparel Management designed garments from repurposed materials and non-fabric media. They focused on the intimate relationship between reader and book, body and clothing, reflected (for example) in the sounds of turning pages that echo the rustling of fabric.

The University of Missouri officially opened the Student Center on October 22, 2010. It is the most dynamic facility on the Columbia campus, integrating conference, lecture and study rooms; informal meeting areas; dining facilities; student organization offices; and the University bookstore.

**Hours:** Monday-Friday: 7:00am-Midnight  
www.unions.missouri.edu/msc_tab

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**Location:** 611 Conley Avenue. Townsend Hall is located west of Ellis Library, north of the Alumni Center, and southwest of Jesse Hall.

**TITLE:** Big Idea Books: Entwining Word and Image.  
**VENUE:** Townsend Hall  
**Dates:** November 1-31, 2012  
Undergraduate and graduate students in Kathy Unrath’s “Overview of Art Education” course create artist books that combine art production with personal reflection and interaction. The books focus on “Big Ideas,” such as baggage, addiction, and beauty. Each book opens with the author’s own definition of the big idea both visually and verbally. The next two pages feature the author’s virtual collaboration with contemporary artists that they feel successfully engage the selected theme. Then, a classmate adds a visual interpretation of the original work, providing the author with new ways of thinking about and looking at the big idea. Finally, the artist creates a final page, based on the visual interpretations of others, that engages the complexity, ambiguity, and multiplicity inherent in the enduring idea. The result is a multi-layered and collaborative three-dimensional work that reflects and embodies the social significance of art in the public realm.

**Hours:** 8am-10pm  
education.missouri.edu/about/history/historic-townsend-hall.php
TITLE: Big Idea Books: Entwining Word and Image  
VENUE: Student Success Center  
Dates: November 5-31, 2012  
Undergraduate and graduate students in Kathy Unrath’s “Overview of Art Education” course created artist books that combined art production with personal reflection and interaction. The books focus on “Big Ideas,” such as baggage, addiction, and beauty.

The art education program at the University of Missouri is designed to provide students with a strong background in visual art and design education in order to become effective, responsive, professional artist-teachers. Coursework is structured to develop expertise in studio, art history, and pedagogy with an emphasis on providing 21st century skills that build imagination, creativity and innovative thinking.

Hours:  
Monday-Thursday: 8-9pm  
Friday: 8-5pm  
success.missouri.edu/

TITLE: The Art of the Book: Social Injustices Interpreted in West Junior High School Students’ Altered Books Inspired by Ediciones Vigía  
VENUE: Columbia Public School Administration Building  
Dates: November 12-16, 2012  
Eighth grade students from West Junior High School researched and created altered books with the theme of social injustice under the direction of Matt Leutchmann and Julie Chatman, art and gifted program teachers. They will be on display at the Columbia Public Schools Administration Building.

Hours:  
Monday - Friday: 7:30am-5pm  
http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/

TITLE: Seeing Visions/Hearing Voices: Altered Books  
VENUE: Orr Street Studios  
Dates: November 13, 2012  
As part of the Seeing Visions: Discuss Art series at Orr Street Studios, WJHS students and teachers will showcase the books and share their creative processes on November 13, 2012 from 7:00-8:00. Everyone is invited to attend!

Orr Street Studios, located in the North Village in downtown Columbia, hosts more than 25 artists working with various media to create fine art.

Hours:  
November 13, 2012: 7:00-8:00pm  
www.orrstreetstudios.com/
**Artist-in Residence: Rolando Estévez Jordán**

Estévez will be a visiting artist in Art Department at the University of Missouri from November 5 to 8, 2012. During his residency, he will be participating in a number of events that are free and open to the public. Please join us!

Estevez’s visit is sponsored by the MU Fiber Arts Club, the Organization Resource Group, and The Bingham Art Gallery.

**Monday Nov. 5**
11-1:50pm | Fiber Studio, Bingham Connection (between Schurz & Hatch Halls, enter through side door on southeast side of Hatch Hall). Estévez will make a book and assist students in making a one-of-a-kind book in the manner of Ediciones Vigia.

3:00-4:30pm | Printmaking Class (taught by Chris Daniggelis) Rm. 207 Fine Arts Bldg. Work with students and discuss his work in printmaking.

**Tuesday Nov. 6**
11-1:00am | Letterpress Class (taught by Jean Brueggenjohann), Corner Play House, Hitt & University in basement, Estévez will talk about artist books.

2:00-4:50pm | Fiber Studio, Bingham Connection (between Schurz & Hatch Halls, enter through side door on southeast side of Hatch Hall). Estévez will make a book and assist students in making a one-of-a-kind book in the manner of Ediciones Vigia.

**Wednesday Nov. 7**
11-1:50pm | Fiber Studio, Bingham Connection (between Schurz & Hatch Halls, enter through side door on southeast side of Hatch Hall). Estévez will make a book and assist students in making a one-of-a-kind book in the manner of Ediciones Vigia.

**Thursday Nov. 8**
2:00-4:50pm | Fiber Studio, Bingham Connection (between Schurz & Hatch Halls, enter through side door on southeast side of Hatch Hall). Estévez will make a book and assist students in making a one-of-a-kind book in the manner of Ediciones Vigia.

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**Title:** The Design, Construction, and Re-Imagination of Books

**Venue:** Rogers Gallery in Stanley Hall

**Dates:** November 9-14, 2012

Beginning-level design students in the Department of Architectural Studies created works inspired by the artistic processes of Estévez and Vigía. After selecting a design manifesto written by a 20th century architect, students in Julie Chatman’s class produced hand-made constructions that reflected the manifestos’ social and technological agendas and well as three key characteristics of Vigía publications: the use of found materials; elements of surprise; and interactive parts.

The Rogers Gallery in Stanley Hall was endowed in memory of Kate Ellen Rogers, former Architectural Studies Department Chair. Stanley Hall houses the Departments of Architectural Studies and Textile and Apparel Management.

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**Hours:**
7am-midnight

http://umcspace.missouri.edu/historic/buildings/Stanley/
Acknowledgments

Our thanks go to the Mizzou Advantage program, which provides support for MU faculty, staff, and students to work collaboratively on projects like this one. We thank, too, the following people for their leadership and participation:
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We also would like to thank the MU Office of Cultural Affairs and the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Related Events

Saturday, November 10, 7 p.m.
Dr. Carlos Perez-Mesa Memorial Concert  Hilaro Durán and Jane Bunnett with Candido Camero
Whitmore Recital Hall, Fine Arts Building, Presented by the “We Always Swing”® Jazz Series; for tickets visit wealwaysswing.org

Wednesday, November 14, 4:00 PM
Poetry Reading by Nancy Morejón, Cuban Poet Laureate and Salgado Maranhao, Brazilian Poet Laureate
105 Strickland Hall, University of Missouri