

FACE TO FACE: A LANDMARK PUBLISHING EVENT

Many of the most important living American wood engravers of the past fifty years have been brought together for the first time. Twelve original engravings have been commissioned especially for this collection. Each print appears here for the very first time, in a limited edition of signed, numbered engravings. *FACE TO FACE* is an invaluable contribution to printmaking.

Our theme is the contemporary artist interpreting himself both in wood and words. Our aim has been to create a striking collection of art that in addition tells us something definitive about each of the artists involved. *Face to Face* provides an intimate look at some of the finest wood engravers in this country, a look at how they view themselves in relation to their individual experience.

The first co-publication of Penmaen Press and Busyhaus Publications, *Face to Face* presents twelve original 6 x 8-inch signed and numbered wood engravings. Out of our limited edition of 250 boxed sets, 200 are for sale, at a suggested retail price of \$1,600, with discounts available (see insert). The engravings were printed from the wood blocks on archival paper and each set is housed in a hand-made print box. The commissioned blocks will be cancelled, insuring the integrity of the limited edition. See the back page of this prospectus for details.

Brief artists' career biographies are accompanied by personal anecdotal statements written by the artists to complement the original prints. The publishers have written a foreword about the process of creating *Face to Face*.

In addition to the twelve signed and numbered engravings in each hand-made print box, an extra suite of signed, unnumbered prints is included. An extra print of the dedication engraving described below is also included, for a total of twenty-six prints. The extra prints enable a collector to frame the suite of engravings while leaving the boxed collection of signed, numbered prints intact.

THE DEDICATION PRINT

Face to Face includes a thirteenth wood engraving, by the famous engraver and book illustrator Lynd Ward (b. 1905), to whom the collection is dedicated in anticipation of his eightieth birthday in 1985. Mr. Ward produced the first woodcut novels in the United States and is a widely exhibited printmaker with numerous awards to his credit. His engraving, a 5 x 7-inch vertical design, serves as an ideal dedicatory statement. One of the artist's last works before his retirement, the unsigned print is published here for the first time.

THE INTRODUCTION

Leonard Baskin (b. 1922) has written our introduction, providing insight into wood engraving as an artist's medium. Mr. Baskin is internationally renowned not only as a wood engraver but also as a sculptor and the proprietor of the Gehenna Press.

On the front cover: Wood engraving by Michael McCurdy from *Face to Face* (reduced).



Fritz Eichenberg

ARTISTS CONTRIBUTING SIGNED ENGRAVINGS

FRED BECKER (b. 1913) worked with Lynd Ward on W.P.A. projects during the 1930's and with Stanley William Hayter of Atelier 17 during the 1940's. His engravings are in leading collections throughout the country.

JACK COUGHLIN (b. 1932) is one of this country's best known print-makers. His work has been shown in innumerable exhibitions and has been the recipient of many awards.

JOHN DEPOL (b. 1913) has been a professional designer and wood engraver of note for over forty years. His work is found in fine press books and print collections, and in 1980 he was elected to the New York Printers' Wall of Fame.

FRITZ EICHENBERG (b. 1901) is one of this country's foremost book illustrators and graphic artists. His bold, expressive wood engravings appear in many fine editions and have been shown in countless exhibitions and collections.

RAYMOND GLOECKLER (b. 1928) has exhibited his prints and paintings extensively and has won over eighty awards. His work is found in many leading collections, and he has had numerous one-artist exhibitions.

JAMES GRASHOW (b. 1942) has had his work appear in many periodicals. This extremely versatile artist has used his skills in a variety of ways from poster art to stage design. He is also a well known sculptor.

JUDITH JAIDINGER (b. 1941) has her large, meticulously detailed engravings in a great number of collections, and she has received many awards for her remarkable work.

STEFAN MARTIN (b. 1936) began cutting technical engravings when he was eighteen. Since then he has become increasingly well known as an exhibiting artist whose fine work has appeared frequently in books as well.

MICHAEL McCURDY (b. 1942) has engravings in fine press and trade books. An award-winning book of the artist's engravings was published in 1982. He is also the publisher of Penmaen Press editions of contemporary literature.

BARRY MOSER (b. 1940) is the well known illustrator and publisher of Pennyroyal Press books, including his famous *Alice in Wonderland*. His exceptional work has raised America's consciousness of the art of wood engraving.

GILLIAN TYLER (b. 1935) has illustrated books in wood for the Imprint Society, the Gehenna Press, The Printery, Penmaen Press and others. Her fine engravings have appeared in exhibitions as well.

HERBERT WATERS (b. 1903) had the opportunity to develop his extraordinary engraving skill while working with the W.P.A. He is noted especially as a landscape artist and his work is in many leading collections.



Barry Moser

THE ENGRAVINGS

We asked our artists to create their engravings on 6 x 8-inch vertical blocks, thus assuring uniformity in the event a collector wishes to frame this stunning series for home or office. The engravings were cut on end-grain South American boxwood, and each will be cancelled by the artist. *These engravings are unique to this special limited-edition portfolio.* The sheet size for all the engravings is 11 x 15 inches.

THE PAPERS

The engravings were printed on 80-lb. Mohawk Superfine High Finish Cover, an archival paper praised for its beauty, printability and endurance. The extra suite of engravings was printed on 80-lb. Mohawk Superfine Smooth Softwhite Text, also an archival paper. The folio paper used as a deckled wrapper for each print and as a vehicle for the printed text is 100% rag 90-lb. archival-quality Rising Stonehenge in both fawn and natural white.

THE TYPE

For the main text we have chosen Hermann Zapf's Palatino, known for its beauty and clarity of cut. We have, of course, printed our text directly from the metal type for the very best visual and tactile results.

THE PRINTERS

All of the wood engravings were printed directly from the block by Harold McGrath at Hampshire Typothetae. Long considered one of America's finest letterpress printers, Mr. McGrath has worked with Leonard Baskin's Gehenna Press and is currently collaborating with Barry Moser's Pennyroyal Press. The text was hand-printed letterpress in brown and black by Michael McCurdy at his own Penmaen Press.

THE PRINT BOX

Designed especially for *Face to Face* by Robert Hauser, our print box was hand-made at the Currier Bindery in Newport, Rhode Island. A durable all-cotton beige sail cloth was used to cover a box of basswood construction which measures approximately 11 x 16 x 2 inches. As a unique touch, we have, in addition, engraved the title FACE TO FACE into an authentic type-high piece of engraver's endgrain wood which serves as the spine. A printed label, placed in a debossed panel on the front, completes the design.

THE PUBLISHERS

Robert Hauser's Busyhaus Publications has contributed significantly to book arts studies by both publications and workshops. Its book *American Decorative Papermakers* was published in 1983. Mr. Hauser is Conservator at the New Bedford Whaling Museum and a Fellow of the American Institute of Conservation. Michael McCurdy's Penmaen Press has been a noted literary press for over fifteen years, producing award-winning books that are praised not only for their editorial merit but for their production qualities as well. Mr. Hauser and Mr. McCurdy, close friends and associates since their years together at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, are both members of the Society of Printers.



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McCurdy-Hauser, St. Botolph Club, Boston, Massachusetts, 1970s