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**ARTIST JULIE RUSSELL-STEUART COMPLETES, *THROWAWAY*,  
A LETTERPRESS PRINTED ARTIST'S BOOK**

REINBECK, IA—Book artist Julie Russell-Steuart has completed *Throwaway*, (January 2013) which explores ways in which our culture/economy tosses aside things. This work is part of the international BookArtObject group, Edition 4, which uses 100 short story titles from Sarah Bodman's *An Exercise for Kurt Johannessen* (2010) as starting points for artist's books created by artists around the world. *Throwaway* is title #99.

Russell-Steuart's investigation into the culture of consumerism led her to wide range of the *used up* or *thrown away*, from technology to natural resources. She writes in concise poetry, accompanied by pressure print illustrations made with "throwaway" materials like cereal boxes and string. Even people's lives are not immune to the effects of consumer culture, and Russell-Steuart shows this by adapting two people's stories from the web site, We Are the 99 Percent on tumblr.com.

Structurally, the format is a double-sided accordion booklet that opens up on the inside to a map style folding. The paper is hand-painted DuPont Tyvek, a spun polyester material that is 100% recyclable and safe for landfills. After printing and drying and folding, Russell-Steuart crumpled the printed work up into a ball as if it was something to be thrown away. Spreading it back out and re-folding it became a work of salvage, a message she hopes to bring home on the map-like interior. The text is letterpress printed with hand-set types. The book stands upright in a cradle within a box structure. The box enclosure was constructed with the design and engineering skills of David Steuart, and is made from boards covered in hand-painted Tyvek.

Julie Russell-Steuart is a visual artist making editions of artist's books, poetry, and prints on a vintage Vandercook printing press under the imprint Caveworks Press. Recently, she was featured with other letterpress printers in the book, *The Vandercook 100*, which showcases, in part, the resurgence in letterpress printing. Russell-Steuart was profiled in NAR Staffers Out in the World (Annual Summer Fiction issue 2012) of the North American Review, a literary magazine. Her books are collected by several University libraries, including The University of Iowa, and Texas State University. She runs a graphic design/art business, Caveworks Press & Studios out of her home in Reinbeck, Iowa.

Links:

<http://bookartobject.blogspot.com/>  
<http://wearethe99percent.tumblr.com>  
<http://www.northamericanreview.org/>  
<http://www.justvandy.com/thevandercook100.html>  
<http://www.caveworkspress.com/>

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