

CAVEWORKS PRESS & STUDIOS

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IOWA PUBLISHER AND BOOK ARTIST COLLABORATE ON NEW WORK

REINBECK—Caveworks Press is producing a letterpress-printed artist's book this summer for Maintenance Ends Press, a Midwest-centric publishing imprint dedicated to bringing fresh, off-center voices into print.

This limited edition letterpress artist's book of 75, entitled *53 Lines*, comes out in advance of the novel *Voices after Evelyn* by Rick Harsch (Fall 2018 Maintenance Ends Press) and excerpts a portion of the text from the first appearance in the novel of the Chorus voice. The novel seeks not so much to dig up a cold case--the 1953 disappearance of La Crosse, Wis, babysitter Evelyn Hartley--as re-open its heart.

Caveworks Press' collaboration with Maintenance Ends Press is an unusual partnership that's wholly due to publisher Todd Kimm's vision and indirectly, Ice Cube Press, of which Maintenance Ends Press is an offshoot. Kimm describes the impetus, "The mission of this Iowa-based press is to bring together the talents and visions of all types of Midwest artists, from visual artists to musicians to photographers and, of course, writers. Julie is a great example of an artist coming up with brilliant things out there in rural Iowa, a place so often overlooked or discounted."

Artist Julie Russell-Stewart of Caveworks Press explains that "artist's books are a category of book arts that encompass the book as an art object." In *53 Lines*, the viewer is invited to explore the mystery of Evelyn's disappearance through the book's unique structure, called a tetra tetra flexagon. As the viewer moves through the unfoldings, recombinations and separations of images occur.

Excerpt:

*Evelyn, fingering her
Indian bead belt,
impotent talisman
against the pulmonic
dark moving
outside the windows*

Artist Julie Russell-Stewart uses imagery, both hand-drawn and photographic, to pick up certain elements of the Chorus. Her photographs of the rock and fossil formations at the Iowa Coralville Dam become embedded in the narrative. Without knowing the full story of the novel, she based *53 Lines* off the imagery suggested in the Chorus. The structure was designed to circle around the mystery.

Ms. Russell-Stewart will use the laser engraver at Cedar Valley Makerspace to create relief plates for printing from on her press, a large cylinder letterpress machine called a Vandercook Universal III. With five colors on both sides, each color on each side is a hand-cranked separate run. After printing, the laser will be used to cut the paper. The enclosure is also printed and then constructed, and the tetra tetra flexagon folded and hand-cut.

The origins of the changing-faces flexagon structure, of which there are many, date back to 1939, when a Princeton student, Arthur H. Stone, was folding paper to fit into his notebook. Several of his colleagues also became intrigued with his paper folding and they formed the Princeton Flexagon Committee. Now, flexagons are embraced by mathematicians and book artists alike for their magical yet logical properties.

For more information about the process, release date and associated events visit www.caveworkspress.com and navigate to News.

Pre-order information for *53 Lines* at <http://www.icecubepress.com>

Funds raised through the purchase of *53 Lines* support Maintenance Ends Press and adventurous, diverse, thoughtful books.

About Maintenance Ends Press and Voices after Evelyn:

Maintenance Ends Press begins with the notion of exploring and discovering what lies beyond the path of the familiar. In that spirit, the press aims to expand the notion of that most underestimated of safe zones, the Midwest. *Voices after Evelyn* is a fugue of voices across time (cracked, offensive, profound) reverberating toward today, when the phantoms of so-called innocence and greatness grow scarier than whatever took Evelyn away.

On Rick Harsch

Rick Harsch appeared on the American literary scene in 1997 with the cult classic *The Driftless Zone*, followed by *Billy Verite* and *Sleep of the Aborigines* (all Steerforth Press) to form *The Driftless Trilogy*.

Born and bred in the Midwest, Harsch received degrees in sociology and history from UW La Crosse and lived there off and on for 22 years. He migrated to the Slovene coastal city of Izola in 2001,

Rick is also author of *Arjun and the Good Snake* (2011, Amalietti & Amaliette), *Wandering Stone: The Streets of Old Izola* (2017, Mandrac Press), and *The Manifold Destiny of Eddie Vegas* (2018, River Boat Books).

The author lives in Izola still, with his wife and two children. He teaches about 100 hours a year at a maritime academy in Trieste, and has co-authored numerous scientific works in the maritime field.

About the founding publisher

Todd Kimm has had his fingers in many Midwest pies, including baking a couple himself. In the early '90s he co-founded the statewide arts quarterly *Tractor Magazine* and served as its editor. Todd has edited small town newspapers, Iowa City's former alternative weekly, *Icon*, and *Little Village* magazine (which he also co-founded). He has worked as communications director for various Iowa non-profits, including Legion Arts and PFI, an Ames-based sustainable agriculture group. For a time, he even worked in the Iowa Legislature. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, he now lives in Solon, site of his first job covering Beef Days.

About Caveworks Press and Julie Russell-Steuart

Caveworks Press' roots are in publishing poetry on the Vandercook proof press, starting with poet-laureate Mary Swander's *Crazy Eddy on the Judgement Day* in 2004. They are still very much involved in printing poetry with a recent poetry broadside partnership with *the North American Review*, the oldest literary journal in the United States, which is based out of the University of Northern Iowa.

Julie Russell-Steuart grew up in Maryland and earned a BFA in General Fine Art from Maryland Institute, College of Art. Her work encompasses multiple mediums with a particular interest in the synthesis of word and image. She now works out of her Reinbeck, IA, print studio.

She publishes books of poetry and artist's books, makes prints, greeting cards, and hand-made journals. She offers custom design and letterpress printing for social (events, weddings) and for business. Her artist's books are collected privately and by several University libraries, including The University of Iowa, Texas State University and the Lucille Little Fine Arts Library at the University of Kentucky.