**Biennial Artists' Book Competition and Symposium**

*Sponsored by the UNT Libraries*

**Call for Entries**

**Purpose**

The purposes of the competition and symposium are to encourage the development of students’ work in the medium of Artists' Books, to foster the creation of Artists' Books, to reward excellence and creativity in the Artists' Books field, and to expand the collection of Artists' Books in the UNT Libraries’ Special Collections.

Entries will be accepted in two categories: a Student Purchase Prize category and a Non-Student category. One winner will be selected from each category, but the $400 purchase award will only be given to the winner of the student category. Honorable mention awards will be given in each category at the discretion of the jurors. Additional entries from both categories may be selected for purchase dependent upon availability and budget restrictions of UNT Special Collections.

**2025-2026 Competition Theme: Rethinking the Codex**

For the 2025-2026 competition cycle, we are seeking entries that push the boundaries of the traditional codex format and embrace the roles of materiality and form in artists’ books. Artists are encouraged to interpret this cycle’s theme through the exploration of sculptural elements, bindings, book structures, materials, and more. Specific eligibility requirements for entries can be found below.

A one-day book arts symposium will be held in Willis Library in March 2026 to conclude the 2025-2026 competition cycle. The symposium will be open to all participating artists, as well as the public, and will include an exhibition of competition entries and a reception to honor the winner and honorable mentions along with other opportunities to connect with, explore, and celebrate the field of book arts. More information about the symposium will be available in early 2026.

**Student Purchase Prize Category**

All eligible entries in the Student Purchase Prize category must be available for purchase into UNT Special Collections for $400. The item chosen for the purchase prize will become a permanent addition to the Artists’ Book Collection in UNT Special Collections, and will be highlighted at the UNT Special Collection’s Book Arts Symposium to be held in March 2026.

**Non-Student Category**

Although entries in this category are not eligible to win the purchase award, the competition is open to alumni, faculty and staff of the University of North Texas and members of the local community. If you would like to enter up to three items in the competition, you are highly encouraged to do so. Even though the items are not eligible for the prize, if accepted, they will be shown at the UNT Special Collection’s Book Arts Symposium in March 2026, which will give the work exposure to the campus and community.

**Eligibility Requirements**

Artist’s books of all shapes and sizes are welcome, and there is no restriction on media type or materials. The following eligibility requirements will be strictly enforced:

* Entries must have been created within the last two years
* Entries should be able to sit securely on a flat surface without assistance
* Entries should be no larger than 16” in height, width, or depth

Entries that do not meet the above eligibility requirements will not be accepted into the competition. Entries meeting eligibility requirements will be displayed during the UNT Special Collection’s Book Arts Symposium, currently scheduled for March 2026, along with a reception to honor the purchase prize winner and honorable mentions.

***A maximum of three books may be submitted. There is no jury fee.***

**Entry Procedure**

A completed entry form (type or print legibly), identification labels attached to individual works, and SASE for return of entries if being mailed must be included with the artwork. ***Works will be accepted December 1-5, 2025.***All communications with participants will be through email, unless participant indicates other preferred method.

**Deadline: Friday, December 5, 2025, 4:00pm.**

Artists are encouraged to hand-deliver work to Willis Library, Special Collections, Room 437, between 9am and 4pm Monday-Friday. To inquire about special arrangements for delivery outside of these hours, please contact specialcollections@unt.edu.

Work may be shipped in a reusable container prepaid via UPS, Parcel Post, or FedEx. It is the artist's responsibility to include return shipping (please do NOT enclose checks or cash). Ship work(s) to:

UNT Libraries Artists' Book Competition

Attn: Meagan May

University of North Texas - Willis Library

1155 Union Circle #305190

Denton, Texas 76203

**Return of Work**

All hand-delivered work not accepted for display during the symposium must be picked up from Special Collections (Room 437) in Willis Library, January 26 - February 6, 2026 between 9am and 4pm Monday - Friday. Special arrangements can be requested to pick up entries outside of these hours by contacting specialcollections@unt.edu. All shipped works not accepted will be returned in original packing material by February 6, 2026. Any shipped works that do not include return shipping must be picked up no later than February 6, 2026 by 4pm.

**Liability**

All reasonable precautions will be taken to ensure protection of the work while in the care of the UNT Libraries. However, no liability will be assumed by the University of North Texas, its staff, faculty, or students for loss or damage to any work submitted for any reason before, during, or after the competition and symposium. Insurance is the responsibility of the artist.

UNT Libraries is not responsible for works not picked up by April 17, 2026.

**Competition Timeline and Calendar**

**December 1 – 5, 2025**

Delivery of work from artist to Willis Library, Special Collections (Room 437)

**January 16, 2026**

Jurors' selections completed

**January 23, 2026**

Notifications are sent out

**January 26 – February 6, 2026**

Works not accepted for display will be picked up or returned

**March 2026 (Date TBA)**

Special Collection’s Book Arts Symposium and Competition Reception

**April 6 - 17, 2026**

All competition works will be picked up or shipped

**Checklist**

Each entry must include:

* A legible entry form with name and contact information
* A completed identification label

If shipping entry, include:

* Return Postage
* Sturdy Reusable Box

If return postage is not included, works may be picked up in person in Willis Library by April 17, 2026.

**Entry form on next page.**

**Entry Form** (type or print legibly)

**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Address**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

City \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 UNT Student  UNT Alumni (graduation year): \_\_\_\_\_\_  UNT Faculty/Staff **** Other

**Identification Labels:** *Attach to each piece of work submitted*

**Entry 1 (**To be filled out by jurors**) Accepted Declined**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Title\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Year\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Media\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Price\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Artist statement about work:**

**Entry 2 (**To be filled out by jurors**) Accepted Declined**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Title\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Year\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Media\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Price\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Artist statement about work:**

**Entry 3 (**To be filled out by jurors**) Accepted Declined**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Title\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Year\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Media\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Price\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Artist statement about work:**