

Words + Images: Broadsides from the Black Rock Press

CURATED BY

Bob Blesse for the Nevada Arts Council

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34 framed broadsides
Introduction Panel and Wall Tags
Gallery Notes with essay by Harry Reese

LINEAR FEET

Approximately 65 linear feet

SECURITY

Low – Medium

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Gallery lighting on artwork, as available

AVAILABILITY

Ongoing (This exhibit is part of NAC's permanent collection)

For schedule information call
775.687.7108

The Nevada Arts Council is extremely grateful for the generosity of an anonymous donor in support of the *Words + Images: Broadsides from the Black Rock Press* exhibit.



traveling
exhibitions

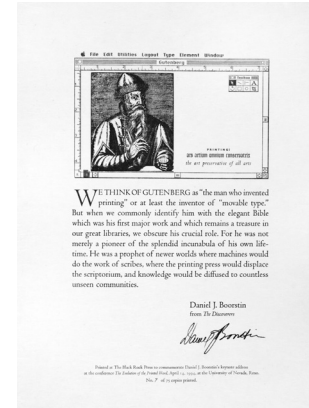
All of the broadsides featured in *Words + Images: Broadsides from the Black Rock Press*, were produced at the Black Rock Press at the University of Nevada, Reno using the letterpress process with handset type and relief plates. The printing was done on a Vandercook cylinder proofing press.

Since it was founded by Kenneth J. Carpenter more that forty years ago, the Press has been dedicated to the practice and teaching of the arts and crafts associated with the creation of finely printed books. The Press now has a national reputation for its outstanding work and has become a living museum of traditional printing technology, housing a variety of cabinets filled with metal type, and a number of historically significant printing presses. Its centerpiece, a gilded 1837 super-royal Columbian iron handpress, is one of the finest examples of a nineteenth century iron handpress to be found anywhere in the country.

Letterpress broadsides are created for numerous reasons, frequently to honor a visiting writer at a campus event. The Press has produced broadsides to honor university residencies by U.S. Poets Laureate Robert Pinsky and Billy Collins. Several broadsides were printed in conjunction with a national poetry broadside competition held in the

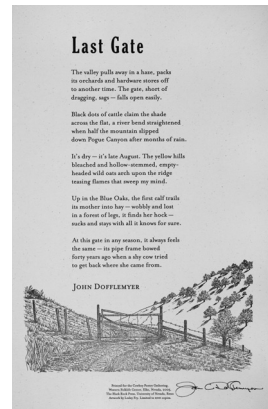
1990s; winning poets received cash awards and had their poems printed as broadsides. In recent years, broadsides have been produced for the Robert Laxalt Distinguished Writers Award, presented annually by the university's Reynolds School of Journalism. Each broadside features a quotation from the writings of Robert Laxalt, one of Nevada's finest writers. Most of the broadsides in this exhibit were designed and printed by Bob Blesse, director of the Press. Others have also contributed, including John Balkwill who was in residence as a book artist and printmaker at the Press during the mid-1990s. Former students assisted with the design, production, and illustration of the broadsides.

Broadside writers include Marjorie Agosin, Willis Barnstone, Daniel Boorstin, Andre Codrescu, Billy Collins, Hayden Curruth, Carol V. Davis, John Dofflemeyer, Joseph Duemer, Gretel Ehrlich, Martha Elizabeth, A. Bartlett Giamatti, Shaun T. Griffin, James W. Hulse, Linda Hussa, Donna Johnson, Robert Laxalt, Wally McRae, Joel Nelson, Steven Nightingale, Naomi Shahib Nye, Gailmarie Pahmeier, Robert Pinsky, Kirk Robertson, Gary Short, Kevin Stevens, Bill Stobb, Michael White, Terry Tempest Williams and Paul Zarzyski.



Johannes Gutenberg, 1994
Author: Daniel Boorstin
Artist: John Balkwill
Letterpress printed

Last Gate, 2005
Author: John Dofflemeyer
Artist: Leslie Fry
Letterpress printed



The Breaker in the Pen, 2002
Author: Joel Nelson
Artist: Gary Morton
Letterpress printed