

The Dean Clough Galleries, Halifax

16 May 1998

**The first Artists' Book Fair** at Dean Clough comes at a time when the genre seems to have reached a cross-roads in its development. As we approach the millennium the future of the Artist's Book may be perceived as either a catalyst within the broad context of critical art practice or a misconceived attempt at what is becoming pigeon-holed as 'book art'.

The Artist's Book Fair aims to establish a provincial focus for practitioners and publishers outside the capital's arena; to raise a greater awareness and appreciation from a wider audience; to open up a discourse on the possible limitations that the Artist's Book genre may be creating regardless of its growing popularity.

Despite these and many other issues raised by events such as this, the Artists' Book Fair is a cause for celebration. Dean Clough has its place within contemporary artistic practice, not only

through its location in the center of the Trans-Pennine region but, as a venue where the arts, education and commerce collide and interact. Dean Clough allows for experimentation and opportunity, a place to take risks. The fair is a chance for artists, designers, printers and binders to meet and present their particular interests in book production, creating an environment where the public can be engaged and challenged.

I would like to thank all exhibitors for their participation in this book fair; the speakers Les Bicknell, Phil Redford, Chris Sacker and Ian Tyson; John McDowall without whom this event would never have been initiated and organised and, of course, Dean Clough, especially Linda Collins, for their support of the event.

**Chris Taylor**

Published 1998 by IMPRESS on the occasion of the Contemporary Artists' Book Fair at The Dean Clough Galleries, Halifax, 16 May 1998.

Catalogue by John McDowall with images from his book 'Markers'  
© 1998

Foreword © Chris Taylor 1998  
All other texts © the artists 1998

Production John McDowall and Chris Taylor  
All rights reserved.

ISBN 1 900243 05 9

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Printed by Print Out, Halifax