

# BOOK OF LIES

A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT BY EUGENIA P. BUTLER



TOURED BY CURATORIAL ASSISTANCE TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

*What is the lie with which I am most complicit?*

*What is the truth that most feeds my life?*

Eugenia P. Butler (1947-2008) was a Los Angeles-based artist who played a formative but often overlooked role in the inception of American Conceptual art. *Book of Lies* is a collaborative project with works by seventy-six contributing artists. It is curated by Butler's daughter, Corazon del Sol.

Begun in 1991 and continued until Butler's death, the project is an examination of how we use "the lie to explore our relationship with the truth." Butler held three artist dinners, where she asked her guests to consider the questions "What is the lie with which I am most complicit?" and "What is the truth that most feeds my life?" A wide range of artists and poets responded in unique and provocative ways, and a three-volume set of works was created.

Each contributing artist hand-made eighty versions of their artwork, which were then compiled into limited-edition artists' books. The exhibition showcases these works as framed articles, but their significance is bound to their essentially interactive and tactile nature. The pieces themselves resonate with the time, love, and laborious processes that played a critical role in their creation. The project as a whole serves as a testament to Butler's vision of "recalibrating" oneself to distinguish the truth within from the lies that surround us.

*Each volume is a work of art unto itself that developed from the process of creating it, from the individual works themselves and from the relationships between the parts and the whole. At a certain point a bigger vision broke through – something beyond previous understandings – surpassing the initial ideas to become a singular artwork consisting of discrete and powerful works of art. Its subject matter is truth, lies, and the intimate power of a true work of art.*  
— Eugenia P. Butler

Conceived as a global conversation about truth and lies, *Book of Lies* is a work of art made of other works of art that invites viewers into the intimate worlds of its creators, while considering universal questions of identity, reality, and existence. As Butler wrote, *Enter with a mind as open as you can make it. My own has certainly become more sensitized to the numbness and depths of feeling that irradiate that unstable field of reality we call the truth.*

**NUMBER OF WORKS**

74

**FRAME SIZES**

10 x 13 inches to 35 x 45 inches

**SPACE REQUIREMENTS**

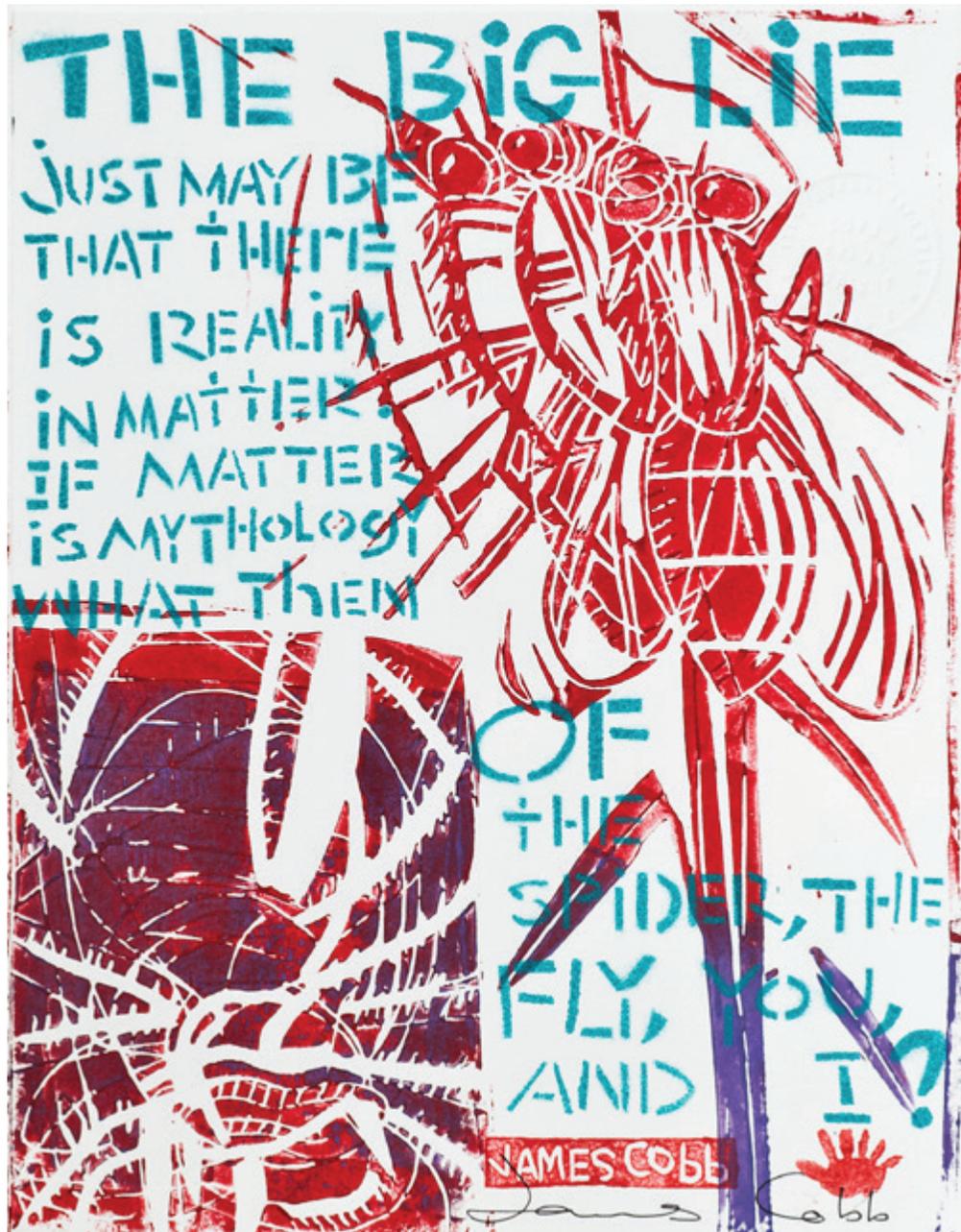
Approximately 250 linear feet

**SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS**

Curator Corazon del Sol available for lecture and presentation of original *Book of Lies* volumes

Front page:  
Penelope Lee  
Untitled  
Hand-embroidered cotton mask  
12 3/4" x 11 1/2"  
1993

*The lies that affect us the most are  
the ones we don't see; the ones  
that are handed down to us,  
generation to generation.*  
— Corazon del Sol, 2014



James Cobb, *The Big Lie: The Spider and the Fly*, Linocut, 17" x 14," 2003



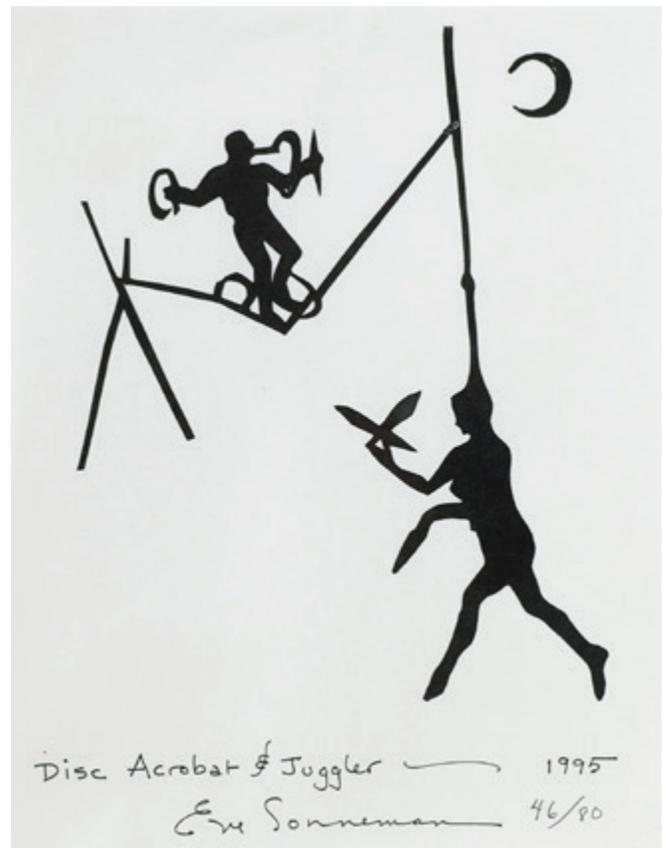
Steve DeGroot & Mary Rakow, *Music like this finds all my wounds*, Text-collaged paper with gold fabric veil, 17" x 14 1/2," 2003



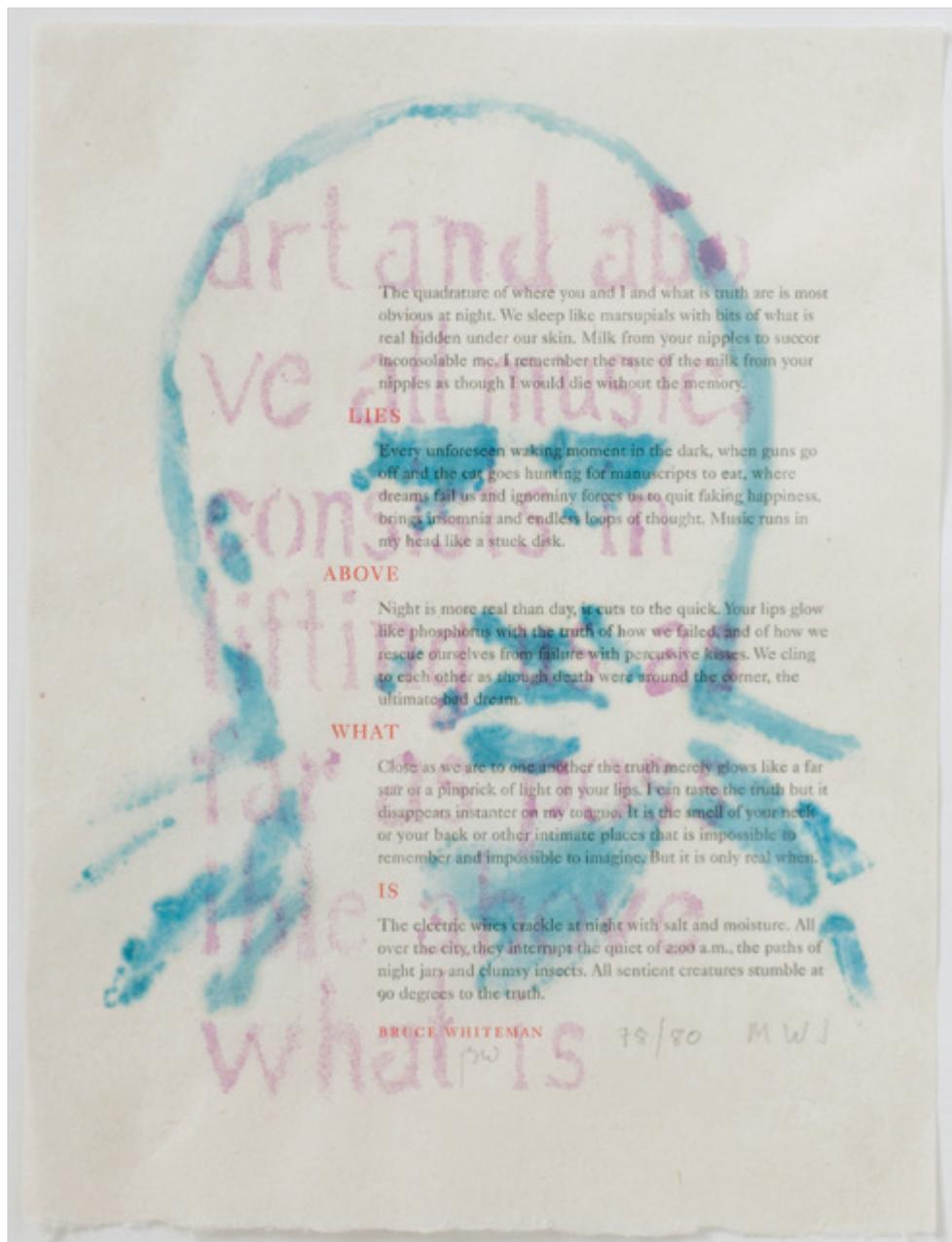
Mirella Bentivoglio, *Void in the Center*, Red text on white paper, 17 1/2" x 15," c. 1996



Georganne Deen, *Mother's Lies*, Color laserprint, text and collaged lotería card, 17 1/2" x 14," 1994



Eve Sonneman, *Disc Acrobat and Juggler*, Black silhouette on white paper in booklet, 17 1/2" x 14," 1995



Bruce Whiteman with Milt Jewell and Gloria Kondrup, *Lies Above What Is*, Hand-painted image over letterpressed poem on fine paper, 17" x 14," 2004



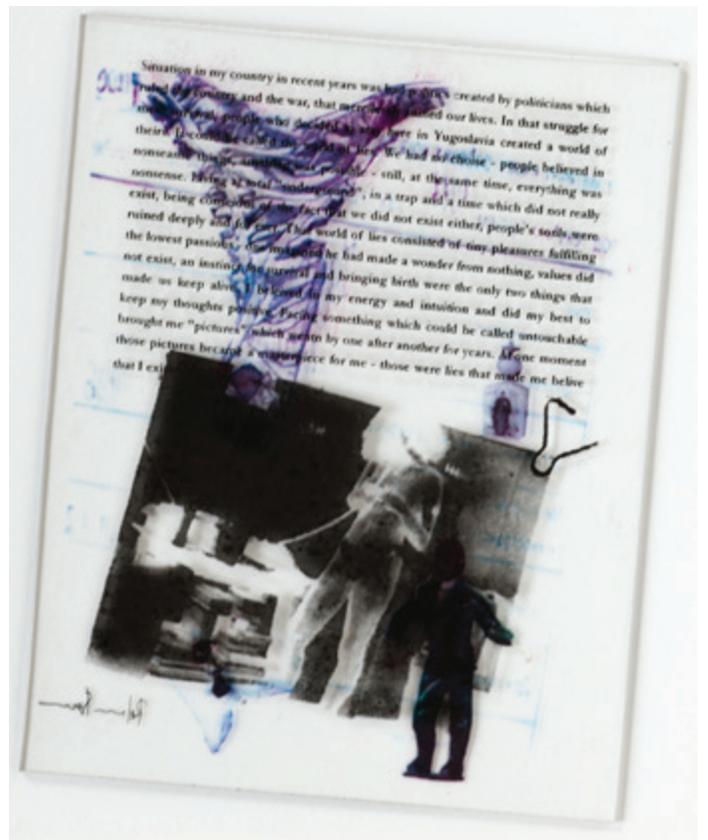
Daisy Zamora & Maria Jose Zamora, *Mirage*, Small book with poem in Spanish and English, paper, twine, brown paper, leaf and wasp's nest, 16 1/2" x 17 1/2," 1996



Ilkka Juhani Takalo-Eskola, *Colours are Lies*, Collaged commercial print, 18 1/2" x 15," c. 1996



Jill Giegerich, *Thinking/Absolute Commemorative Stamp*, Page of stamps in a glasseine envelope, 16" x 14," 1997



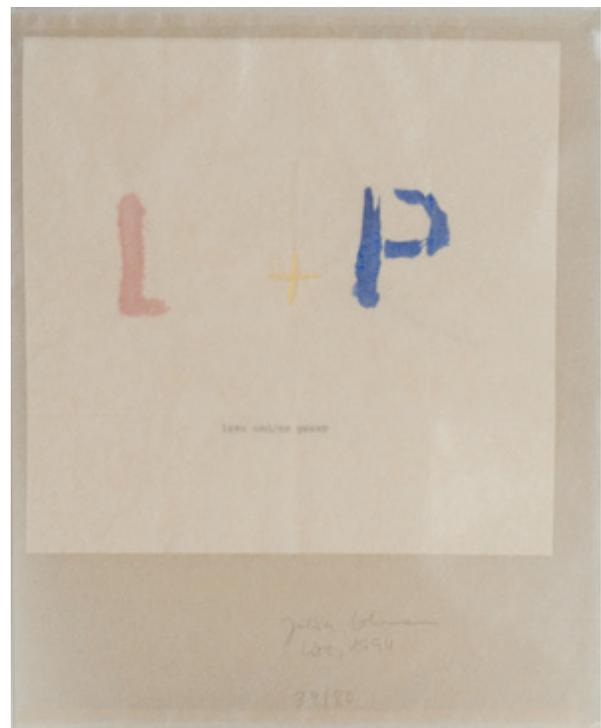
Biljana Bakaluca, *The lies that made me believe that I exist*, Double-sided print on plexiglass, 17" x 14," 2004



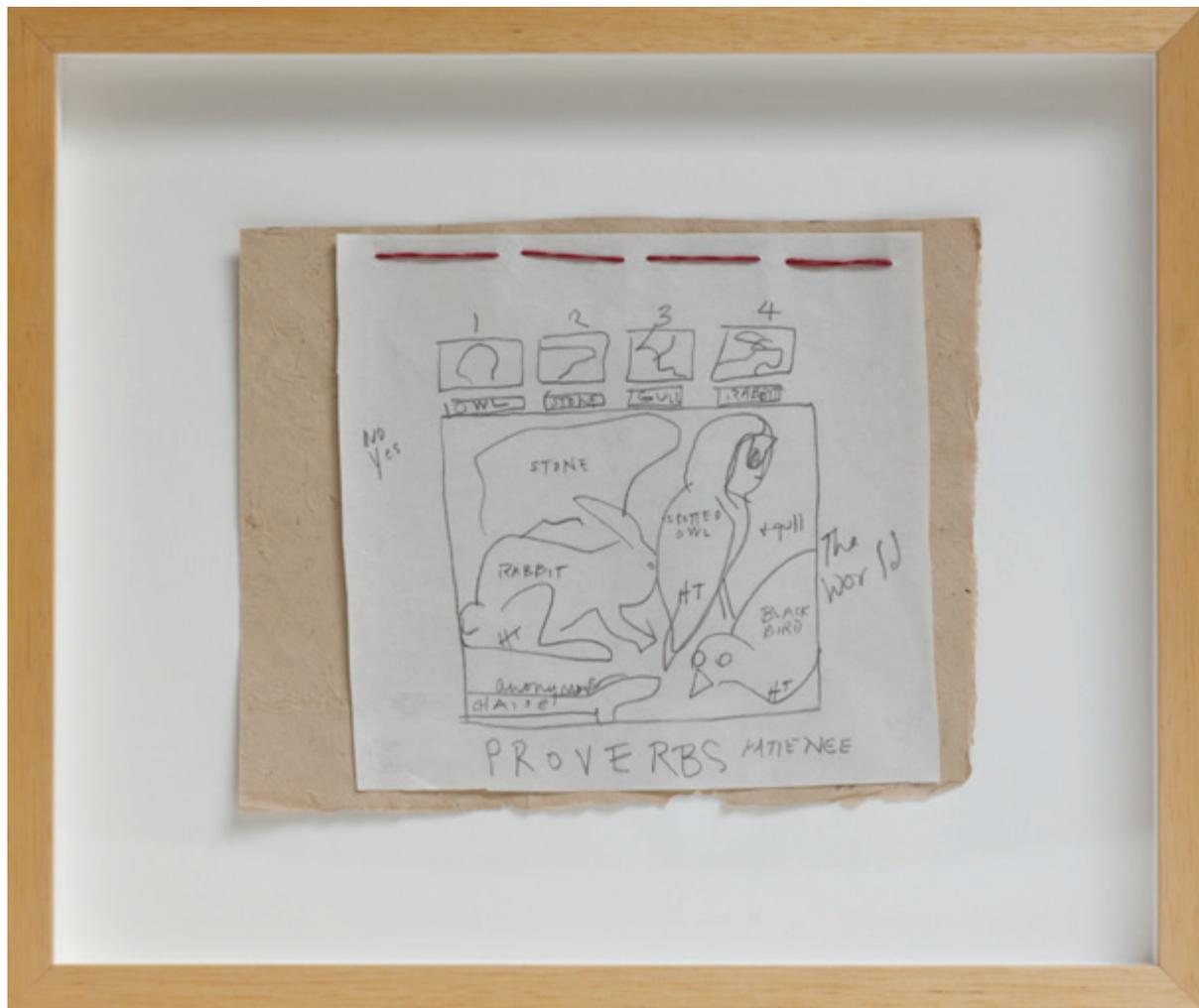
Maria Porges, *Untitled*, Accordion-folded text piece in paper folder, 18" x 23," 1997



Jenny Watson, *Untitled*, Block print on felt, 18" x 15," 1997



Julia Lohmann, *Love and/or Power*, Paper napkin painted, sewn with typed text in glasseine envelope, 15" x 12," 1993



Joan Jonas, *The World. Proverb: Patience.*, Handmade paper, drawing paper, pencil drawing with red yarn, 17" x 14 1/2," 1996

**Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions (CATE)** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating opportunities for access, outreach, and education in the visual arts through the origination and circulation of diverse and innovative exhibitions for museums and art organizations worldwide. CATE fosters collaborations between public and private resources by developing traveling exhibitions that expand public opportunities to view and experience significant works of art. Formed in 2000, CATE has toured more than 400 exhibitions to over 850 art venues worldwide.