

Karen Viola



Living and working in White Plains, New York  
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## BIO

Karen spent her childhood in Vancouver and Toronto, Canada, then moved to New York to earn her BFA at Parsons School of Design. She has extensive professional experience designing innovative and educational book products for children. She now runs her own art business and micro-publishing shop, Climbing Tree Press. Her expertise with paper engineering and fascination with the human journey inform her ever-unfolding studio practice.

## STATEMENT

I find inspiration in the patterns and narrative of nature, humans included. I am currently experimenting with unconventional book and other hybrid forms using paper, hand-dyed textiles, and upcycled materials. I strive to offer a visceral, hands-on experience with my pieces in an effort to nurture curiosity, social connectivity, and environmental stewardship.

## EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2019, Women's Studio Workshop | Summer Art Institute, Natural Dyeing for Book Art  
2019, Center for Book Arts | Letterpress classes and training  
2016, 2017, Parsons School of Design | Mixed Media courses  
1987, Parsons School of Design | Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration

## SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021, (forthcoming in May) Reclamation: Artists' Books on the Environment | San Francisco Center for the Book  
2020, These Times | Philadelphia Center for the Book (virtual exhibition)  
2019, Fear | Volition Gallery, NY  
2019, Variations on the Artist's Book | City Hall, Philadelphia, PA  
2019, Personal Best | Mooney Center Gallery, NY  
2018, smallWORKS 2 1/2 juried biennial show | Garrison Art Center, NY  
2018, Opulence: Not Everything that Glitters is Gold | Center for Book Arts, New York, NY  
2017, Big Ideas in Small Packages | Blue Door Gallery, Yonkers, NY  
2017, The Alternate Self | Blue Door Gallery, Yonkers, NY

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## ART FOR COMMUNITY

2020-present, Are You Book Enough participant, an international monthly book art and curatorial challenge on instagram initiated by Sarah Maker at Editions Studio

2018-present, Cards for a Cause | All art sale proceeds donated to Hike for Mental Health (80% scientific research and 20% trail conservancy) available at [climbingtreepress.etsy.com](https://climbingtreepress.etsy.com)

2020, Tell Me More Por Favor | Virtual puppet show graphics and video production in support and celebraton of Cristosal's 20 years of human rights work in Central America

2019, Flowers Behind the Mountain | Theatrical community fundraising event which involved designing a large, pop-up art gallery display featuring drawings by asylum-seeking youth and young children living in El Salvador

2018, Hands of Hope | Portable, mixed media accordion banner in Tarrytown, NY, created in collaboration with asylum-seeking youth from Central America

2016, Bridge of Hope Mural | Christ Church and San Marcos, Tarrytown, NY  
Designed with a wide range of bright colors and black outlines to reflect El Salvador's traditional art style and allow a paint-by-number collaborative approach to painting the wall by the whole community, raising awareness and funding for the work of Cristosal

2015, Tienes Valor/You Belong interactive banner | Abbott House, Irvington, NY  
Mixed media wall-hanging art created in collaboration with cognitively-challenged adults and used to welcome and engage asylum-seeking youth from Central America

## COLLECTIONS

Works held in private collections in the U.S., Canada, and Australia.

## MEMBERSHIPS

Center for Book Arts, Arts Westchester, Women's Studio Workshop, Philadelphia Center for the Book, New England Book Artists

