

I couldn't NOT participate in this project. I spent two years as a graduate student at the University of Iowa's School of Library and Information Science. . . . When working the evening shift at the Art Library I spent an awful lot of time making little artworks with the library materials: the stamps were really the best, second only to the blank library cards.

. . . Perhaps my submission to the cARTalog project can somehow make up my earlier misuse of library products. I never ever considered plucking a card from the card catalog to be used in art, but I'm sure thankful for the chance, ten years later.

**Karina Cutler-Lake, Berlin, Wisconsin** Exhibitor



I've always been fond of libraries and I've been doing Mail Art since 1990... so in this project I've found the two topics at once! I've joined more than 800 projects so far, but this is one of the finest... there is everything in it: love for books and libraries, recycling, art, and memories....

**Fabio Sassi, Bologna, Italy**  
Mail Art Participant

To me, as an old-timer, library card files and the cards within them have a magical quality; they were portals to worlds and times beyond my reach as a youngster living in a small rural-oriented town. . . . When my M.A. thesis got its own card in one of those file boxes, I had the experience of feeling I'd attained instant sanctification!

**Marion Carson, Marion, Iowa** Participant

## cARTalog Acknowledgements

### Gratitude towards

Robert Possehl, for his generosity of spirit and gift of the installation

Dennis Belfer, UI Theatre Department for his technical assistance

### UI Libraries Staff

Gary Grout & Pat Hogan for their generous accommodations  
Shannon Thye, Postal advisor  
Joel Maxey for his SkyJack assistance  
Joyce Barker for her card curtain  
The Departments and Administration which supported the project

### Participants

The 400+ participants who adopted cards, the 63 artists who submitted pieces to the General Exhibition, and the 102 mail art participants.

### Exhibition Planning and Installation

Kristin Alana Baum, Curator  
Kristi Bontrager, Public Relations  
Jessica Alaniz, Production Assistant  
Laura Thoms, Production Assistant  
Jessica White, Installation Assistant  
Stephanie Gowler, Installation Assistant

### Graphic Design & Layout

Sarah McCoy & Jessica Alaniz

### the cARTalog committee

Kristin Alana Baum  
Sarah Andrews, Mail Art Project  
Donald Baxter, Web Design  
Susan Hansen, K-12 Project  
Jen Wolfe

### Digitizing & Web Team

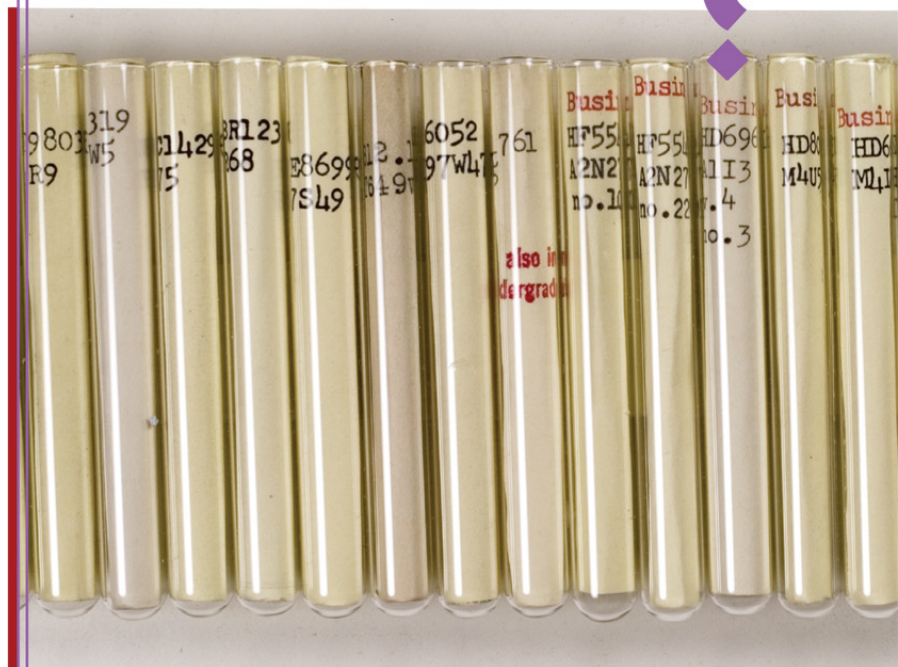
Shannon Cody, Amber Neville, Steve Tatum

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 45  
Iowa City, Iowa

Friends of The University of Iowa Libraries  
100 Main Library  
Iowa City, IA 52240-1420

# What would an artist

# cARTalog do ?



**MARCH – JUNE 2006**  
**NORTH EXHIBITION HALL | MAIN LIBRARY**

[www.lib.uiowa.edu/pr/cartalog](http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/pr/cartalog)

**THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES**

## What is cARTalog ?

cARTalog is a community based art project intended to honor the University of Iowa Libraries retired public card catalog and offer a rebirth to the long-loved system which would otherwise be headed for the recycle bin. Project organizers were able to salvage only one fifth of the Libraries' public card catalog for the cARTalog project; that's approximately one million cards.

Participants—from Iowa, across the country and around the world—were invited to adopt cards and recreate a home for them in whatever way was most meaningful to them. Cards were requested by a well-rounded demographic: from preschoolers to retirees, students and teachers, children and parents, and among these participants emerged artists, writers, librarians, comedians and musicians, to name a few.

City of Chicago  
Chicago's Great Buildings  
Emma Waight

The cARTalog Project involved several non-juried satellite projects including an online gallery, a K-12 Exhibition, a Mail Art Project and the General Exhibition, which is on display here in the Main Library's North Exhibition Hall.

The success of the project is due to the participants and their enthusiasm. While the individual pieces provide a diversity of artistic vision and intent, as a collective whole they speak to the spirit of collaboration, the connection of people and community, the importance of stories and memory, and how libraries play a role in all of these phenomena. The art offered here is evidence of our

## Exhibitors

### Featured Artist

**Robert Possehl**, Viroqua, Wisconsin

Installation and book artist Robert Possehl is known for his site-specific labyrinths and environments, which he calls "books you can walk in." He creates pieces which are to be "read," that evoke reponse and provoke silent contemplation. Viewing catalog cards as books, he celebrates where they take us and sends the cards skyward in a hanging installation, his "requiem" to the card catalog.



Message in a Bottle  
Mare Dianora

Lois Baker Muehl, Iowa City, Iowa  
Peter Balestrieri, Iowa City, Iowa  
Kristin Alana Baum, Iowa City, Iowa  
Benjamin Böhm, Tübingen, Germany  
Amy Bouse, Los Angeles, California  
Jim Canary, Bloomington, Indiana  
Beth Canary-Lee, South Bend, Indiana  
Beth Carls, New Brighton, Minnesota  
Louise Coates, Deerfield, Wisconsin  
Karina Cutler-Lake, Berlin, Wisconsin  
Martin Dabrowski, Lodz, Poland  
Lucy David, Iowa City, Iowa  
Juli Davis, Jacksonville, Florida  
Mare Dianora, Sag Harbor, New York  
M.D. Falconer, Strawberry Point, Iowa  
Susan Field, San Jose, California  
Jane Freeman, New York, New York  
Frips, Ghent, Belgium  
Gregory Galloway, Hoboken, New Jersey  
Erin Germain, Dubuque, Iowa  
Sally Gore, Worcester, Massachusetts  
Laura Gunnip, Leeds, England  
William Harroff, Edwardsville, Illinois  
Beverly B. Hettig, Penfield, New York  
Dee Hibbert-Jones, San Francisco, California  
Kristin Jacobi, Mansfield, Connecticut  
Cheryl Jacobsen, Iowa City, Iowa  
Charlotte Johnson, Edwardsville, Illinois  
Valerie Johnson, Falls, Pennsylvania  
Susan Knight, Omaha, Nebraska

Anne E. Knipe, Grand Junction, Colorado  
Roberta Lavadour, Pendleton, Oregon  
Mary V. Marsh, Oakland, California  
Claudia McGehee, Iowa City, Iowa  
Liz Lynn Miller, Iowa City, Iowa  
Kathy Mitchell, Iowa City, Iowa  
Joan Nashelsky, Iowa City, Iowa  
Northwest Ohio Altered Artists, Toledo, Ohio  
Bonnie Rae Nyguen, Bellevue, Washington  
Sally Orgren, Andover, New Jersey  
Sky Pape, New York, New York  
Matt Pollard, Iowa City, Iowa  
Gary H. Price, Sunnyvale, California  
Marlene Russum Scott, Oak Park, Illinois  
Fabio Sassi, Bologna, Italy  
Shirley Sauls, LaCrosse, Wisconsin  
Lynn Simmons, Worcester, Massachusetts  
David L. Smith, Stevens Point, Wisconsin  
Michelle Souliere, Portland, Maine  
Jennifer Stash, Falls, Pennsylvania  
Darrell Taylor, Iowa City, Iowa  
S.C. Thayer, White Rock, New Mexico  
Gonzalo Torne, Madrid, Spain  
Gwen Waight, Peninsula, Ohio  
Emiko Waight, Peninsula, Ohio  
Emma Waight, Peninsula, Ohio  
Eileen Wallace, Chilliothe, Ohio  
Anastasia S. Weigle, Old Orchard Beach, Maine  
Jessica White, Iowa City, Iowa  
Michel Williams, Fort Bragg, California  
Nicole Wolfersberger, Bloomington, Indiana

Untitled  
Kathy Mitchell

