

Wildlife

LIFE

GUILD OF BOOK WORKERS | TRIANNUAL TRAVELING EXHIBITION

2021—2022

“In a biological sense, wildlife describes the myriad of creatures sharing this planet, interacting and adapting, all connected to each other and their environment. ‘Wild’ also describes an untamable essence that survives despite the constraints of society and culture.

As craftspeople, knowledge of materials and keen observation of how they behave, and often how they refuse to comply, are integral to our practice, and a reminder of how traditional bookbinding materials originate in nature.”

This was the prompt provided early 2020 for members of the Guild of Book Workers when invited to interpret the theme of “wildlife” in any way they wish, be it literal or abstract, humorous or serious, for the Guild’s 11th traveling triennial exhibition. Little did they know, it would foreshadow the chaotic and unpredictable year to come, when these works were to be created and then released back into the wild to tour around the country.

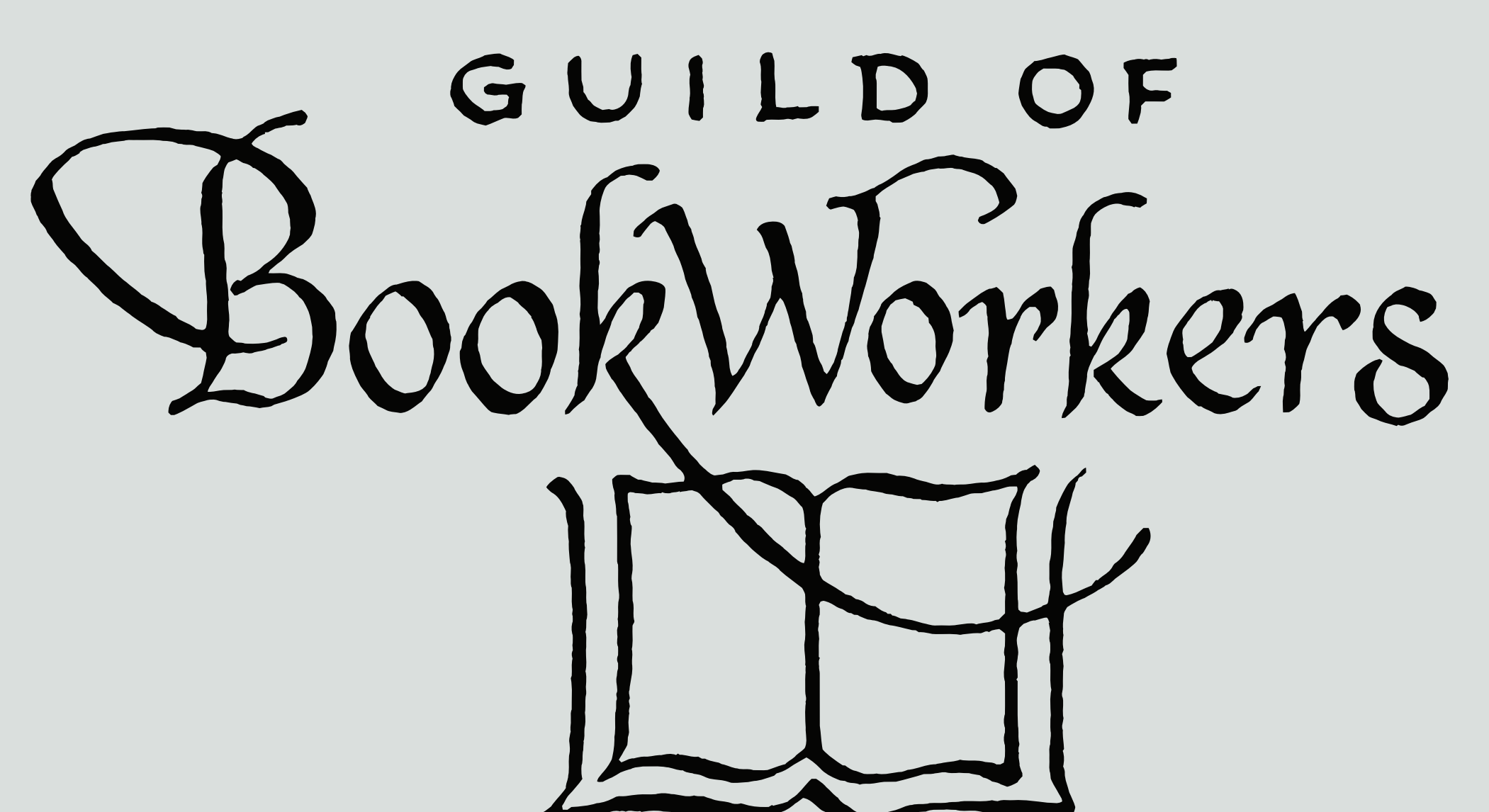
✂ This exhibition features approximately 50 works by members of the Guild of Book Workers, a book artists’ organization that promotes the interest and awareness of the traditions of book and paper arts. The Guild achieves its mission by maintaining high standards of workmanship, hosting educational opportunities, and sponsoring exhibits. What makes each triannual exhibition unique is it marks a moment in time when a distinct group of work comes together to reveal a shared experience seen through different techniques, materials, and themes. In a sense, the exhibitors are the Wildlife that learned to adapt their interacting with the world to respond to the suddenly changing social environment. Access to materials, equipment, and fellow colleagues for inspirational support suddenly became scarce or harder to access. New technologies were adopted and routines changed to make do, but the artists soon transitioned to learning to thrive and connect with others in new ways.

✂ Each of the works in this exhibition demonstrate hand-craftsmanship honed with learning, practice, and experimentation. Materials, some familiar and some not so, are transformed to communicate the artists’ interpretation of Wildlife: from themes of comfort and reflection through reconnecting with the outdoors and depictions of the creatures and flora that call it home to the application of wild in action and mindset, experimenting with structure and unusual materials. Insight into the artists’ thoughts, design, and state of mind can be gleaned from quotes from the artists themselves that accompany each of the works exhibited.

ABOUT THE GUILD OF BOOK WORKERS

The Guild of Book Workers was founded in 1906 to establish and maintain a feeling of kinship and mutual interest among workers in the several hand book crafts. Among its early members are well-known artist-craft workers such as bookbinder Edith Diehl, and printers and typographers, W.A. Dwiggins and Frederic W. Goudy. The Guild still believes, as did its founders, that there is a responsibility to sustain the crafts involved with the production of fine books. Its members hope to broaden public awareness of the hand book arts, to stimulate commissions of fine bindings, and to stress the need for sound book conservation and restoration. Guild membership includes over 800 members at last count and has expanded internationally. Members have access to ten regional Chapters, benefits include a regular print newsletter, an annual journal, exhibition opportunities, and an annual Standards of Excellence seminar.

THE GUILD OF BOOK WORKERS IS INCORPORATED VAS A 501 (C) (3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION BASED IN NEW YORK.



www.guildofbookworkers.org

