

The Denison Dispatch



An E-Newsletter from the Ella Strong Denison Library, Scripps College



NUMBER AND VARIETY OF CLASS VISITS TO DENISON LIBRARY SETS NEW RECORD DURING FALL SEMESTER

The library often connects students to its signature and unique collections through customized instruction sessions and class visits. In partnership and consultation with faculty, Denison staff create hands-on learning opportunities with primary source materials to complement and enhance the classroom experience. By the end of the Fall 2022 semester, a record 33 classes engaged with the collections at Denison Library, ranging in discipline from sociocultural anthropology, art history, media studies, studio art, American Studies and history. Multiple sections of Core 1, including Biology Professor Gretchen Edwalds-Gilbert's students featured in the photo above, explored Denison Library's collections, and each viewed different materials to align with the readings and topics in the semester calendar.

Of note were a few classes with experiential learning components. In Professor Simshaw's Genealogy of Writing course, students examined historic examples of writing from the library's collections and then used different tools to explore various writing methods. Typewriters, Play-Doh, glass pens, a maobi brush and liquid ink challenged students to reconsider the writing process and the technologies used across geographic regions over time.



Art History Professor Julia Lum stated, "I'm so grateful for the Denison staff's support of my course and the student curatorial research." Some of the images and books Professor Lum's students examined are included in the current exhibition, "Partial Witness," at the Scripps College Clark Humanities Museum.

DON'T MISS DENISON LIBRARY'S 5TH ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT

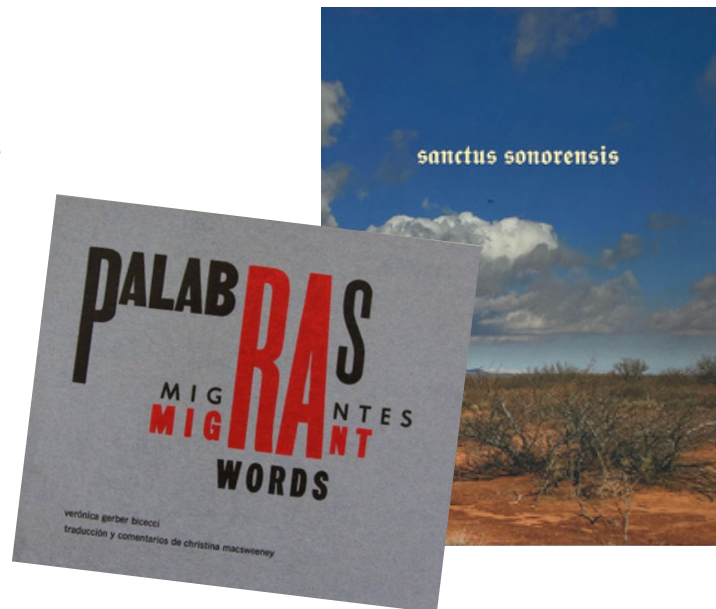


Valentine's Day at Scripps College isn't complete without an intriguing encounter with a rare book. Be sure to join in the fun and drop by the library's Holbein Room anytime from 12-3pm on Tuesday, February 14. As in previous years, participants will be "matched" with one of the library's rare and unusual books. New titles are selected each year to showcase the amazing array of volumes in the library's collection, and the titles you will see for 5th annual celebration are certain to surprise and delight. Bring a friend or come alone; we've crafted an afternoon diversion any booklover would desire.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the phrase "Blind Date," it is a colloquial term primarily used in the United States. It first emerged in the 1920s to describe a potentially romantic meeting between two parties that is arranged by a third. Let Denison Library introduce you to a book or two we hope you'll love!

New Exhibition on Bilingual Artists' Books / Libros de Artistas

Denison Library's current exhibition, titled "Earth and Blood / Tierra y Sangre: The Borders that Cross our Worlds, Histories and Identities in Artists' Books," highlights Spanish and English language works from Denison Library's collections. It includes a number of titles published in Mexico, as well as volumes from Spain, Chile and the United States. Many of these works were produced as limited editions, and they feature a wide range of materials and techniques, including handmade paper, photography and textiles. The subject matter of the volumes vary widely, ranging from migration, love, politics, loss and language. We invite you to enjoy the exhibition through March 3rd.

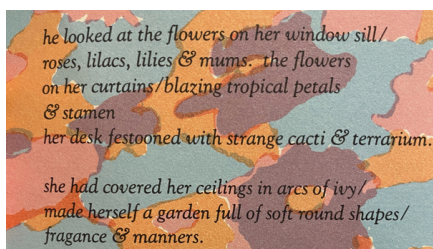


ON THE LIBRARY'S BOOKSHELVES

Ntozake Shange

Some Men

(1981)



The Black feminist poet and playwright Ntozake Shange (1948-2018) is probably best known for her 1975 play, "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow Is Enuf," but at Denison Library you can see a palm sized, eleven centimeters tall book featuring her poetry. Illustrated by American artist Wopo Holup (1937-2017), the slim volume features powerful text and images addressing violence and sexual aggressions towards women. Only thirty-six libraries have copies of this volume, including the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

STUDENTS USE SCRIPPS COLLEGE ARCHITECTURE, LABOR, AND HISTORY TO INSPIRE THEIR ART

Students in Professor Jasmine Baetz and Jih-Fei Cheng's Fall 2022 Materials and Extraction Class (ART/FGSS 153) were challenged in their second project to "make a visually and conceptually responsive sculptural intervention...that engages with the lives and work of our staff, and responds to environment, architecture, and history." One of the research steps in the design and ideation process included a class meeting with Scripps College Groundskeeping staff members Joya Salas, Jorge Sanchez, Manuel Barrios and Ramon Estrada. Two Pitzer students from the class, Dani LaLuzerne and Noelle Tamura, created individual pieces that were installed in Denison Library's Valencia Courtyard and remain viewable today.

Dani LaLuzerne's "Knowledge Carried" is a ceramic pail on the fountain along the courtyard's east wall, positioned to receive water cascading from the lion's mouth and with openings along one side from which the water can then trickle out. She chose to install the piece at the library to invite viewers to reflect on different forms of knowledge, and Dani chose the courtyard fountain to imitate the flow of water and information. The pail/bucket/basket reflects the actions of workers carrying, holding, sitting, and stewarding the land we reside on, and the black and red weave refers to the ongoing advocacy for worker rights at the Claremont Colleges.



Noelle Tamura's "Orange Juice Anyone?" may be found tucked at the base of one of the courtyard's orange trees in the form of an orange juice carton featuring arches on the side inspired by Denison's architectural elements and details reflecting the adjacent metal seating. She wanted the carton of "pure & natural" orange juice to serve as a metaphor for the creation, maintenance and consumption of the perceived natural beauty of the Scripps landscape while recognizing its idealized and human-designed forms concealed among the plants themselves.

Baetz and Cheng's class created a unique opportunity for students to explore the complex histories of land, labor, settler colonialism, and materials production within the context of greater Southern California's built environment through interdisciplinary research and studio-based ceramics art practice.

Share Denison's Collections With Your Family on Feb. 18

Denison Library will host an open house on Saturday, February 18th from 9 to 11am as part of the college's Family Weekend program. Be sure to bring your family and friends to the library's Holbein Room to view highlights from the library's unique collections by and about women, notable rare and artists' books, and materials from the Scripps College Archives.

Denison Library Upgrades Shelving in Two Basements

Most visitors to Denison Library only see its beautiful windows, carved walnut alcoves and stylish cork floors, but generations of library staff members are familiar with the research resources stored in its basements. Over winter break, the library welcomed the long-awaited installation of nearly 5,000 linear feet of mobile shelving, which will allow for the safer and more efficient storage and retrieval of our library's collections. We anticipate it will take the better part of the spring semester and perhaps summer to distribute and organize materials on the new shelves, but library staff did some hefty reorganization last fall in anticipation of this exciting development and can still easily access collections for researchers and instruction sessions.



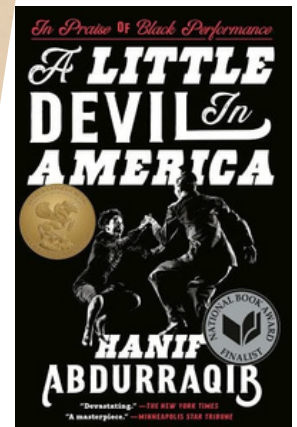
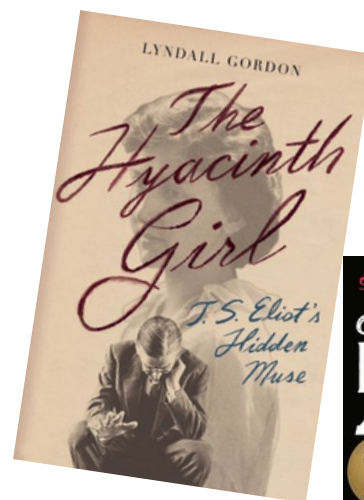
Although the shelves are new to Denison Library, they were actually salvaged from another library's remodeling project, reducing waste and also placing what is typically a prohibitively costly project within reach. Funding for the installation and other associated expenses came from a bequest to Denison Library from alumna Cynthia Haney '69 and from other alumnae donations.

Denison Library student workers are enthusiastic about the improvements, which will make their work much easier. Skye Curren '25 said, "The shelves we had before seemed sort of cobbled together, which made organizing and locating of items difficult." Additional lighting improvements also made one particularly dark basement area much safer and easier to navigate.

DISCOVER NEW BROWSING ROOM TITLES

If you have not looked closely at the shelves in your residence hall browsing room lately, drop by and take a look at some of the new books we are in the process of adding for your reading pleasure. You may enjoy spending some time with the following:

- Hanif Abdurraqib's "A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance"
- David Bradley's "The Cheneyville Incident"
- Lyndall Gordon's "The Hyacinth Girl" -- which is about former 1930s Scripps faculty member Emily Hale and her relationship with the poet T.S. Eliot
- Reyna Grande's "The Distance Between Us: A Memoir"
- Michelle Zauner's "Crying in H Mart: A Memoir"
- Three volumes from the Object Lessons Series published by Bloomsbury Academic: "Scream," "Hyphen" and "Pill"



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!
DENISON@SCRIPPSCOLLEGE.EDU

   Follow Denison Library on social media