



focus on:

**Fond by Big Jump Press**  
[Sarah Bryant]

**Tell us about your latest project.** I've been working on a series of letterpress-printed hand-bound artists' books, focusing on the sort of little objects which we keep because they have sentimental value. I chose ten things I've been carrying around with me for the last few years. This has been a period in which I've moved around a lot, including across the Atlantic to live in Brighton, and these objects have moved with me. Things like a broken key, a chestnut, a little toy car, a film canister with undeveloped film in it.

**How do you turn an object into an art book?** There are two different parts to this edition: the deluxe version, which sells for around \$1200, and the smaller version, which goes for \$375 – I sell most of my work in The States. The smaller edition of the book is essentially a number of letterpress-printed pages bound together as a book, featuring printed images of the objects and tangled trails of words describing what they represent. The deluxe copies are boxed, and include the object itself, and a set of prints.

**So you're offloading things you hold dearly?** Yes! They're not worth any money as they are, but by turning them into an art project I am infinitely increasing their value, and their life span. Putting them in a box is rather like putting them in a sarcophagus.

**Is this project typical of the themes of your work?** Most of the other projects I've done have had a scientific theme. One was based around the periodic table; another featured the human skeleton. My next project is looking at printed representations of population graphs, which take on an almost human form.

**How did you come to start making artists' books?** I started out my artistic career by producing a bunch of terrible paintings. Gradually I realised the art book was the best medium for me as it combined a lot of things I was interested in: fine art, book binding, print-making, publishing and design. And it's a great medium. People connect with artists' books in a way they can't with other art forms. Literally so: they have to physically turn the pages to follow the narrative that develops.

**Why don't you trade under your real name?** Working under a "press name" is the norm in book arts. If you google 'Sarah Bryant', what comes up is some blue-spandex-clad blonde video-game fighting character. It'd take me a while to displace her in the rankings. *Interview by Alex Leith*

Sarah's work will be shown as part of Phoenix Gallery's Press and Release Exhibition, April 27-June 9, celebrating the work of artists' books and self-publishing.