

# Kat Ran Press **Books for Sale**

*A reverse chronological checklist of titles*

*Firenze : 2005*



In the autumn of 2004, the Staff of Kat Ran Press was terribly pleased to announce the publication of its newest and eighth book, *Sleep*, a short story by Haruki Murakami with multicolor etchings by John Gibson. Translated from the Japanese by Jay Rubin, “Sleep” was originally published in the *New Yorker* and recently adapted for the stage by Complicite, the London-based theater group, and the Setagaya Public Theater of Japan. Considered by many to be Japan’s most popular and influential author, Murakami tells the story of a woman who ignores conventional wisdom by embracing more than two weeks of sleeplessness (with the aid of *Anna Karenina*). Composed in Monotype Dante by Michael and Winifred Bixler, the fifty-six pages of *Sleep* were printed at Kat Ran Press on handmade Twinrocker papers. The multicolor etchings by John Gibson, whose paintings may be seen at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (to name but a few), were printed by Peter Pettengill at Wingate Studio. Every single copy was bound in full leather and boxed by Mrs Claudia Cohen. This edition consisted of sixty books, of which just forty-five were offered at \$1500. (Domo arigato, Mr Roboto.)

### **Sleep**

*A short story by  
Haruki Murakami  
translated from the  
Japanese by Jay Rubin  
and with multicolor  
etchings by John Gibson*

**Sixteen Small  
Portraits of Katherine  
Made by Her Friends  
and Colleagues**

*Drawings by*

*Susan Barber*

*Ezekiel Baskin*

*Lucien Baskin*

*Sarah Belchetz-Swenson*

*August Black*

*Nellie Bridge*

*Gemma Corsano*

*Sara Eichner*

*Kurt Gohde*

*Jennifer Hill*

*Tom Krueger*

*Phoebe Mathews*

*Robin Price*

*Maggy Rozycki Hiltner*

*Jennifer Schmidtmann*

*Anne Thompson*

*Jocelyn Webb*

*and a woodcut by*

*Michael Kuch*

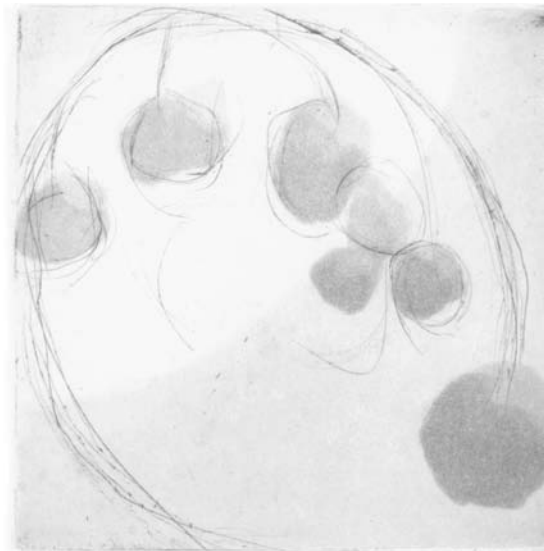
In the winter of 2002, Katherine Russem, co-founder of Kat Ran Press, accidentally ingested a small piece of corncob. Unbeknownst to her, the cob stayed in her stomach for four months until it became lodged in her small intestine, making her deathly ill. After months of inexplicable sickness and several tests for cancer, the true cause of her illness was discovered, and the cob was surgically removed. Alas, like an ever-increasing number of Americans, Katherine lives without any form of health insurance, and her mounting medical expenses far exceeded her annual income. As a surprise for her, the Staff of the Press planned a small book of tributary portraits of Katherine in the spring of 2003 and offered it as a means to raise the funds necessary to pay for her tests, surgery, hospitalization, and numerous prescription drugs. All of the proceeds thus far have gone to pay for Katherine's daunting medical expenses. This little edition is limited to one hundred and thirty-five numbered and fifteen lettered copies measuring a very handy 9 x 6 inches. The books were bound by Claudia Cohen in her own paste papers, and are available for \$125. It is highly recommended that interested parties order early & often. (Seriously.)



**Everything Is Starting**

*A poem by Eleanor Wilner  
with a color etching by  
Louise Kohrman*

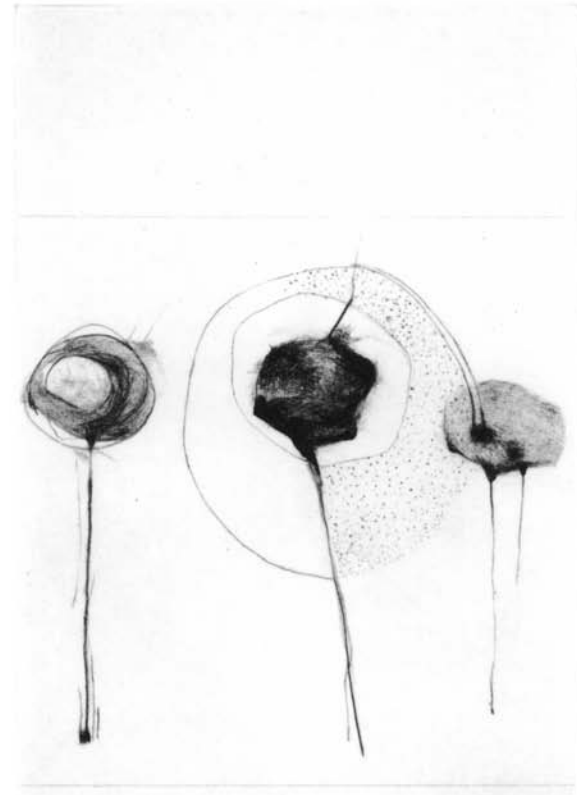
The e-script (a manuscript sent via e-mail) for *Everything Is Starting* was received in the very last days of July 2001, and ours was the first printing of this lengthy poem by the MacArthur Award-winning scholar-poet Eleanor Wilner, who noted in a letter to the printer that the scope of the piece “go[es] from dog piss in the neighborhood to the Big Bang.” It was quickly decided that Centaur types would be exceptionally appropriate for such themes and should be cast in the small foundry adjacent to the Thistlebrook Kennel in the village of Mottville in Skaneateles, New York. The types were carefully printed on dampened Twinrocker papers in June of 2002 at our new offices over the Mill River (our previous shop looked into a warehouse), almost one calendar year after we received the manuscript. A three-color etching by Louise Kohrman was then arranged opposite the title page. The whole book, consisting of about eight 10 x 6½ inch leaves, was sewn into handmade paper wrappers by the entire staff of the Press. Just fifty numbered copies were offered for \$120 each, while an additional fifteen lettered copies were given to the team of individuals who participated in producing the books. (Go team! Sis boom bah!)



### **Crow Calls**

*Four short pieces by  
Robin Barber with  
four photogravures  
of drawings by  
Jennifer Schmidtman*

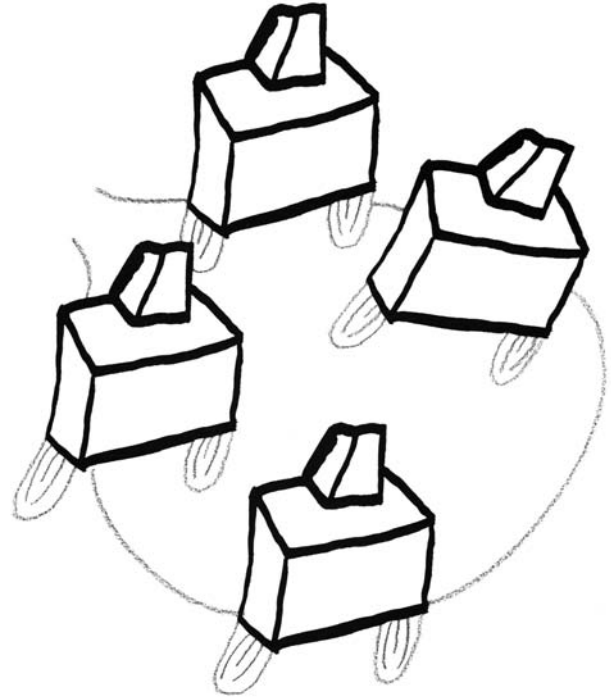
After several years of planning, we finally had the distinct pleasure of offering this title in the autumn of the year 2001. Four short & sweet prose poems by Mr Robin Barber were composed in 12-point Bembo types and so slowly printed on dampened Twinrocker papers by Corinne Gill with Michael and Katherine Russem. Four small and fine pencil drawings were made by Jennifer Schmidtman to accompany these texts, and these aforementioned drawings were carefully turned into photogravure plates by Jon Goodman and printed on his press by Ms Rosemary Kress. The papers throughout were Twinrocker. The bindings and boxes were made (for various reasons) at various binderies such as those of Sarah Provoncha, Sarah Creighton, and Claudia Cohen. Although there was an evolution of the binding, the size remained a consistent and comfortable 11 x 7½ inches. Forty-six numbered copies were offered for \$800, four deluxe copies in a leather binding with an extra suite of prints and a photogravure plate were offered for \$1850, and an additional fifteen lettered copies were given to the tiny & talented team of players who helped to make the books and are certainly not available at *any* price. (You can try to make an offer, though.)



## Overpass

*A counting book  
with six drawings by  
Jennifer Hill*

After two long years, for which we had very little to show, the Staff of the Press was so delighted to offer *Overpass* in the very last days of the summer of 2001. Greeted with scorn *and* ridicule by the old-fashioned and the old at heart, while praised and adored by the progressive and young at heart, it is the first in a planned series of number books in which various artists will be asked to make a series of drawings on themes of their own choosing—the only requirement being that this series deal with an increasing amount of some thing or things (one shin, two bright eyes, three death cabs, etc.). *Overpass* contains six drawings of Jennifer Hill's imagined structures. Ms Hill's original drawings were reincarnated as polymer plates, printed on our presses, and further embellished by the artist with considerable amounts of pencil. Although there is no text, a small amount of metal Gill Sans types in a variety of sizes were required for the title page and colophon. Sheets of Twinrocker papers were dampened, printed, dried, and folded down to just 14 x 10 inches. Fifty numbered copies were offered for \$180. Fifteen lettered copies were also made for the swift team of people that worked on the edition. (To neglect them would be insulting.)



**Trying on our books**

*Let the buyer be aware*

If there is a title in this little catalogue which you find interesting but are unsure if it will be right for you or your collection, we will gladly send a copy for your review. We want people to interact, experience, and be happy with these books. We try to make doing so as easy as possible. Consider sending us a letter or e-mail, or placing a call. We will send a review copy as soon as humanly possible.

**The installment plan**

*Competitive 0% financing*

Unfortunately, the cost of fine press books is often prohibitively expensive. With this in mind, we've developed a simple method to get our books into the hands of those for whom collecting is not feasible. Order a book and let us know the amount of a monthly payment that would be comfortable. We're happy to work with you. As we don't have time to calculate compounded interest or keep track of late fees, we don't charge any. When all of your payments are made, we send your book.

**Friends of the Press**

*Save money while saving the Press*

Our favorite way for collectors and institutions to save money is to join *The Friends of Kat Ran Press*, our standing-order program. By committing to purchase each new title from the Press, Friends receive occasional bits of ephemera and a large discount of 20% off the publication price of every single title published or co-published by the Press.

Our books are collected by dozens of public and private institutions in blue and red states all across this land and in Canada and Europe. Consider a visit to our web site to see an up-to-date listing of these libraries, or contact us to see where specific titles are housed. We can often assist in arranging visits to these libraries. (*You* gotta pay for the gas.) We spend a tremendous amount of time designing and printing books and ephemera for publishers, institutions, and bibliophilic organizations. These clients and patrons include The Limited Editions Club, Osiris Communications, 21st Photography, Hudson Hills Press, Sierras Press, Smith College, the Society of Printers, and the Grolier Club. Why not consider looking into the work of these and our many other clients to see additional examples of our typography and presswork? Or, consider becoming a client yourself. Our entire staff will bend over backwards to meet each of your needs. Send us a letter by Federal Express, UPS, or the national postal service of the country in which you happen to be. Visit us twenty-four hours a day at our web site, or seven days a week at our brick and mortar offices. E-mail is so extremely e-welcome. Operators are standing by. Thanks so very much.

**Visiting hours**

*Book a date in your state*

**The daily grind**

*Just what do we do all day?*

**Contact us**

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*Composed in Fournier & Gill Sans Bold at the little Kat Ran Press,  
2000 copies were printed on the Heidelberg at Oxbow Press in March  
of 2005 and sewn into Fabriano wrappers. You are holding*