For Immediate Release

Tra Publishing selected for Inaugural Edition of Tropic Bound International Biennial Artists' Book Fair in Miami

February 16 - 19, 2023 at Paradise Plaza's rooftop garden in Miami's Design District

December 14, 2022 - Miami, FL

Tra Publishing is one of the 60+ exhibitors chosen to represent artists' books at the inaugural edition of Tropic Bound —South Florida's first international biennial artists' book fair. This vibrant event will showcase the unique artistic genre known as "artists' books." These complex creations bridge the worlds of art, craft, and literature: telling stories, sometimes without words, and represent a broad variety of cultural traditions.

Tra Publishing will be exhibiting works by over 50 artists from around the world, and debuting local artist, Michele Oka Doner's upcoming children's book, *A Seed Takes Root* (September 2023).

Join Michele Oka Doner Saturday, February 18 at 5pm for an intimate conversation about the natural beauty and magic of Miami's surroundings, which fueled her lifelong study and appreciation of the natural world from which she derives her artistic vocabulary. Both *Intuitive Alphabet* and *A Seed Takes Root* are results of her intimate relationship with this tropical paradise, now shared in print with these two exquisitely designed books by Miami's own Tra Publishing.

As an artists' book fair, Tropic Bound will highlight books and bookworks made or altered by hand and provide visitors with the opportunity to meet the artisans behind the incredible pieces.

Visitors will discover the world of artists' books with exhibitors and books from around the world while learning about book binding, paper-making and marbling, letterpress printing, and other

techniques particular to this art form. Visitors can view and purchase works of art, speak to book artists, printers, and collectors, and attend talks and panels that dive deeper into this special form of expression - artists' books.

February 16: Welcome Events & Symposium February 17-19: Tropic Bound Artists' Book Fair

With support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation through the Knight Arts Challenge program, Tropic Bound kicks off with a day of welcome events on Thursday, February 16 with shuttle tours through Miami's literary arts hot spots' an education symposium and welcome party at the rooftop garden event space Paradise Plaza atop the Miami Design District. Tickets available at www.tropicboundfair.org and tropicboundfair.org and tropic

The fair continues Friday - Sunday, February 17-19, as Tropic Bound Artists' Book Fair brings together over 60 exhibitors from across the US, Mexico, South American, Caribbean, Europe and Egypt. The fair is free and open to the public.

2023 Exhibitors

23 Sandy, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA **Anémona Editores**, Ciudad de México, México

Antonio Guerra González, Ciudad de México, México

Arc Editions, London, UK

ARTHUR FOURNIER FINE & RARE LLC.

Brooklyn, New York, USA

Big Jump Press, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA

Bonefolder.com, New Jersey, USA

Book/Print Artist/Scholar of Color

Collective, New Haven, CT, USA

Booklyn, Brooklyn, New York, USA

Brighton Press / Art Around Books, San

Diego, California, USA

Carolyn Shattuck, Rutland, Vermont, USA **CB Sherlock**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

CENTRAL BOOKING, Brooklyn, New York, USA

Colette Fu, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Courier Press at Montana State

University, Bozeman, Montana, USA Crooked Letter Press, Gainesville, Florida,

USA

Dalé Zine, Miami, Florida, USA

Deeply Game Publications, Sebastopol,

California, USA

Diane Jacobs, Portland, Oregon, USA

Emily Martin, Iowa City, Iowa, USA

Extra Virgin Press, Miami, Florida, USA

Hanoi Perez, La Habana, Cuba

Herramientas Grosso, Buenas Aires, Argentina

Hot Tomato Press, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA

Intima Press Editions / Mindy Belloff,

New York, New York, USA

Ioulia Akhmadeeva, Michoacan, Mexico

is PRESS, Denver, Colorado, USA

IS Projects, Miami, Florida, USA

Islam Aly Artists' Books, Cairo, Egypt

LOZENGE Press, Miami Beach, Florida,

USA

Marianne R. Petit Books, New York, New York, USA

Maureen Cummins, Bearsville, new York, USA

Midnight Paper Sales, Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA

Nancy H. Nitzberg Book-Care, Gwynedd, Pennsylvania, USA

Ojos Negros Impress, Santiago de Chile Pedro Villalba-Ospina, Bogotá, Colombia Pegacorn Press//Caroline Kern, Brooklyn, New York, USA

Plat 21 Artist Books and Prints, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

Pokeweed Collective, Greenville, South Carolina, USA

Red Trillium Press, Florence, Massachusetts, USA

Rocinante Press, Oakland, California, USA rulon-miller books, Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA

Russell Maret, New York, New York, USA Seaweed Press: Fieldwork Books, Syracuse, New York, USA Servane Briand, Palo Alto, California, USA Simply Books, Ltd., Tucson, Arizona, USA Small Craft Advisory Press, Tallahassee, Florida, USA Small Editions, Brooklyn, New York, USA Sol Rebora, Buenos Aires, Argentina Solmentes Press, Decorah, Iowa, USA Spell and Bind Press, Penngrove, California, USA Supersessionpress, St Louis Park, Minnesota, USA

The CODEX Foundation, Berkeley, California, USA

The Printmakers Left, California, USA The Prototype Press, Indian Head, Maryland, USA

Tra Publishing, Miami, Florida, USA **Two Ponds Press**, Rockport, Maine, USA **Vamp & Tramp, Booksellers**, Birmingham, Alabama, USA

Vintage Paper CO, Stromness, UK Wild Pangolin Press, Wayland, Massachusetts, USA

Women Photographers International Archive (WOPHA), Miami, Florida, USA Women's Studio Workshop, Kingston, New York, USA

Artist and publisher talks will take place during the fair, in intimate break out sessions that will further illuminate the nuance of the genre and bring together artists' book creators, collectors and the public. Full schedule to be announced shortly.

Exhibitors from around the globe will be participating, with a spotlight on the works of South Florida, Caribbean, and Central American artists. Tropic Bound will celebrate both the time-honored book arts tradition of the countries represented as well as their spirit of innovation and unique perspectives.

Tropic Bound will also highlight local treasures. South Florida is home to several world-class collections and institutions dedicated to artists' books - the University of Miami Special Collections in Coral Gables, the Jaffe Center for Book Arts in Boca Raton, The Vasari Project and permanent art collection at the Miami Dade Public Library System (containing many artist' books from Miami and South Florida's history) and the Girls' Club Collection in Fort Lauderdale.

"Knight Art Challenge winners find new and interesting ways to inform, engage, and connect people through art," said Victoria Rogers, Knight's arts program vice president. "We're excited to

provide support for Tropic Bound, Miami's first artists' book fair focusing on handmade, fine art, books and book works by contemporary artists from the southeastern U.S. and around the world."

What are artists' books?

An artists' book is a work of art that uses the form and/or function of a book as inspiration. It is an art object, intentionally created or conceived by an artist, that can manifest in different ways.

Artists' Books have been part of the human experience for centuries, and have taken various forms throughout our history.

Miami plays a crucial role as a business and cultural center for the Americas, connecting diverse communities that reflect the many cultural groups - including LatinX, Afro-Caribbean, and Jewish diasporas - that have formed strong roots and an interconnected artistic environment in South Florida. "It's a youthful, modern place that has a very multi-cultural and sophisticated world view and great natural beauty." says one of Tropic Bound cofounders Cristina Favretto.

As a biennial event, Tropic Bound will further establish South Florida's role as a hub for a varied, open, and diverse cultural discourse.

"At a time where digital formats are increasingly overshadowing printed culture as the default mediums of communication, Tropic Bound secures a place for the appreciation, celebration and dissemination of the book as art." says one of Tropic Bound's founding directors, Sarah Michelle Rupert.

"Studio visitors often ask what I will do as a book artist when books are no longer around" says Tropic Bound cofounder Ingrid Schindall, "and I say 'what we are experiencing now is more of a rebirth than a death.' With mass communication going more and more digital, physical books are then free to be a more intentional method of conveying ideas. The tactility of the object becomes a part of the meaning, rather than just the default format. In this way, artists and those of us who continue to produce physical books get to determine the future of the medium and the ways in which books will continue to contribute to the evolution of communication."

Female-led team of directors brings together decades of Miami-based contemporary art, book-creating and collecting excellence

Tropic Bound came together over several years of conversations between UM Special Collections Director **Cristina Favretto**, artist and Girls' Club Collection director **Sarah Michelle Rupert** and artist and owner of IS Projects **Ingrid Schindall**. The trio lamented the lack of artists' books as a focus in the many cultural events, fairs and institutions that have grown exponentially in South Florida and appealed to the Knight Foundation to bring change.

"There is nothing quite like this on the whole East Coast" says Schindall. "Miami and its communities were missing out, and we wanted to change that. Tropic Bound will not only provide an international meeting point for folks in the field, but will show off the incredible collections, the diligent artists and the ambitious institutions that have nurtured artists' books as a medium."

The founding directors, a mix of transplant and born-and-raised South Floridians hell bent on contributing to the diverse offerings of the Magic City, met through their mutual love of art. Cristina Favretto is the Director of Special Collections at the University of Miami and manages one of the premiere collections of rare books, manuscripts and archives documenting the history of the Americas. Sarah Michelle Rupert is an artist and cultural producer with 10+ experience managing nonprofits and organizing cultural events including Girls' Club Collection, Art Fallout, SPF Small Press Fair South Florida, Artists in Residence in Everglades, and Now Be Here. Ingrid Schindall is an artist and printmaker who founded IS Projects, the only public-access fine art printmaking and book arts studio in South Florida. She is also the co-founder of SPF Small Press Fair Fort Lauderdale and founder of Existent Books, a semi-annual artists' book publishing initiative.

"We work extremely well together, and love bouncing ideas and bringing a sense of fun to our projects." says Rupert. "There's something to be said of the powerful female energy and leadership running through Miami - the only US city founded by a woman. We want to bring that same pioneering, powerful feminine energy, that multi-tasking spirit and that sense of collaborative fun to Tropic Bound, too."

Part of that fun spirit is felt immediately through Tropic Bound's unique look and branding, inspired by the colors, textures and tastes of the tropics. Created by the graphic design team Topos Graphics, Tropic Bound materials evoke the cool turquoise waters of the Caribbean, the richness of its mangos, avocados and papayas that can be found in the backyards of many a Miamian, and the magic of its candy pink sunsets.

"For us, Tropic Bound is a serious endeavor about a seriously important form of art - artists' books. But, it's made in Miami, and therefore naturally spiked with a bit of tropical zing."

We are extremely grateful for the support of our sponsors and partners that help make Tropic Bound possible. We are supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation through a Knight Arts Challenge Grant, and sponsored in part by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, the full support and partnership of the Miami Design District, as well as Mixed Use Space and other private donors.

About Tropic Bound

Tropic Bound was founded in 2020 by Cristina Favretto, Sarah Michelle Rupert and Ingrid Schindall as a way to bring attention and focus to artists' books. Tropic Bound's mission is to

promote and support the work of book artists while providing opportunities for dialogue and a platform for national and international artists and publishers to exhibit, sell and exchange artists' books.

Tropic Bound aims to elevate the understanding and value of hand-made artists' books as an important contemporary art form where art and words meet. Working with artists, galleries, universities, institutions and publishers from around the world, Tropic Bound seeks to create a regionally accessible platform for people involved in the creation of books as an art form.

Tropic Bound Artists' Book Fair is made possible with support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, the Miami Design District and others.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy. For more, visit kf.org.