

George Nama

George Nama has collected, made and painted in books all his adult life. He began his artistic life in 1966 in Paris, making a hand-stitched book about the Métro. He has since created over 100 sketchbooks. Finding books in thrift shops and often making books from found objects sewn together, he paints over the right-hand pages with gesso and then uses the pages to draw and paint sketches of forms and shapes as they float through his mind. These paintings are his response to the text, the flow of handwriting, a fragment of a headline, a name, an object, a dedication. In turn, the drawings trigger further creations of sculptures or etchings.

Nama's works are figuratively based. Just as his gesso sketches are responses to the books they appear in, so are they responses to the figure. Rather than depicting real objects, they represent something that might exist. Not of course in the sense of a replication of real objects, but rather parts of them (a torso, or a wing), are united with disparate elements, creating figurative responses

Nama has collaborated with a number of major American and European poets, responding to and illuminating their writings with drawings, gouaches, etchings and sculptures.

In 1969 he met Yves Bonnefoy and they began an enduring friendship and artistic partnership, producing nine books together. His etchings for *In the Threshold's Lure* by Bonnefoy attracted the attention of the pianist and poet Alfred Brendel, and the two have subsequently collaborated on a series of portfolios.

In producing the portfolios *Wonders of the Invisible World and Other Poems* (2005) and *Eternities* (2009), Nama collaborated with Charles Simić, the Yugoslavian-born American poet, Pulitzer Prize winner and United States Poet Laureate.

George Nama's portfolios are leaps of his artistic imagination in response to the poems and his enduring friendships. They are published in a limited edition of thirty-five copies and five artist's proofs.

His works are represented in collections throughout the USA and Europe.