

JOHN HOWELL

 *for Books*

John Howell for Books

Richard Wagener - Loom

Design Binding by Coleen Curry

March 16, 2024



John Howell for Books

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WAGENER, Richard (b. 1944), illustrator and **LONEY, Alan** (b. 1940), poet. *Loom*. Gig Harbor, WA: Nawakum Press; Petaluma, CA: Mixolydian Editions, 2014. Folio. 13 7/16 x 8 15/16 inches. Unpaginated. [40] pp. 16 two-color wood engravings printed by Richard Wagener on his Vandercook proof press with poetic text on facing pages; text clean, unmarked. Unique design binding by Coleen Curry in hand-dyed calf leather with flexible covers, the text sewn “montage sur onglets” (i.e. on guards), fabric onlays on the covers, embossed suede doublers, leather end bands, natural edges, blind-stamped spine label, housed in a blue-cloth covered clamshell box with leather spine label as on the binding; binding square and tight. From a private collection. With the original prospectus. ON1022-001 Fine.

\$ 5,000

LIMITED EDITION, out of print, of 46 copies, including 16 Deluxe Copies with paper chemise holding one of the 15 prints bound by Timothy Barrett, 30 slipcased copies bound by Timothy Barrett at the University of Iowa Center for the Book, this is one of 10 copies *hors de commerce*, out of series, and with a special design binding by Coleen Curry. Book design by David Pascoe of Nawakum Press in collaboration with Richard Wagener of Mixolydian Editions for the artwork. Patrick Reagh typeset and cast the Monotype Janson 401 and printed the text in Sebastopol, CA. Beginning with a simple question, “how many threads does it take to make a weaving?” Richard Wagener drew and the carved on the surface of ingrain wood blocks with a wood engraver’s burin. Wagener’s illustrations honor the elegant simplicity and faulty of the loom and its 5,000-year history. Alan Loney was asked to respond to this series of engravings; his work is a entire series of poetic images asking deep questions of connection and exploring the thread of life itself.

Loom won the 2016 Carl Hertzog Award of Excellence in Book Design and is now out of print. The Carl Hertzog Award for Excellence in Book Design is awarded annually by the Friends of the University Library of the University of Texas at El Paso. The award was created to acknowledge the art of fine printing, encourage work by new and established artisans, and honor the craftsmanship as well as the visual and physical elements of books. The field of entries in 2016 was 47 books submitted.

Coleen Curry bound her first book with Tina Muira in 2004. She received her Diploma in Fine Binding from the American Academy of Bookbinding (AAB) in 2009. She is past President of the Hand Bookbinders of California and currently the Vice Chair of the San Francisco Center for the Book. Curry’s work is held in private and public collections, including at the Boston Athenaeum and the Bancroft Library. She exhibits internationally and has won a number of awards for her work, which crafts technically evocative bindings that aim to provide visual, sensual, and tactile experiences.

