

Artist Statement

Artist: Lynn Sures

Title: *Time Is Not Linear* Books 1, 2, 3, and 4

Date: 2020

Materials: Hemp paper, linocut and pigmented flax pulp painted on cotton/abaca base, forged steel

Dimensions: each book stands closed at 26 x 19 x 5.5 inches (65 x 48 x 14 cm.)

For my recently completed sculptural book project, *Time is Not Linear*, I worked at forging steel, papermaking, printmaking and binding. The physical effect of this series of four Coptic bound artist books is to encounter an episode in time and space. The project has been developed while I have been thinking about physical forces existing in nature.

The first step began with my working at the forge, heating rods of steel until red hot, hammering and twisting the patterns for the exterior covers of the sculptural books. The patterned rods were bent into shape using a torch, and finally a sculptor friend welded them together for me. Each set of steel covers in this series is unique, while each conforms to the size of the handmade paper text blocks.

For the interior covers I printed my hand-drawn, hand-carved linocuts onto my pulp paintings. The colors and patterning are different for each of the books. The printed patterns on heavyweight pulp-painted paper begin to coax the hard, exterior steel covers into a rapport with the gentle book pages inside.

I had a delicate but untamed sheet in mind when I beat the raw hemp pulp for the pages. Some of the pulp is pigmented to a silvery gray hue, to continue the transition from covers to natural hemp pages. The sheets show irregularity in their deckle edges, to suggest a dynamic presence rather than refinement and order. They are quite translucent, even without light shining through them. A lengthy binding period, hinging and sewing the thin pages together was a haven for me during the pandemic and political upheaval of 2020.

Since our beginnings, people have desired to see things in the world and beyond it as having connection, not as inexplicable. I read about physics to learn something of how things fit together. Science finds that time is not independent from space, and that there is no “absolute time.”

Everything is in motion in these sculpted books—the twists and turns of the steel, undulating printed patterns, and the fluidity of the pages as they settle into positions. The observer opens the books. The pages have limited rigidity, allowing them to wave as directed by ambient physical forces. Each time opened, the books create different waves and sounds. I observe this activity, and this series touches my curiosity about “spacetime”—in its fantastic presence, a trait of nature showing and telling us about our world and the power of all things physical.