



Melanie Mowinski

Wayfinding Star, 2016

Artist Book, letterpress, natural pigment watercolors, gesso, graphite, ink, and acrylic paint on paper

Edition of 10

Opening Bid: \$400

Wayfinding Star documents departure from latitude 42.562 / longitude -73.1629 (Cheshire, Massachusetts, where I live) to latitude 45.4343 / longitude 12.3388 (Venice, Italy, where I spent winter 2016). Each line in the middle layer represents latitude and longitude lines, demonstrating the closeness in latitude but distance in longitude. The text on the front layer recounts experiences navigating in Venice as I lost and found my way, always listening for the toll of church bells. The back layer of the book, the eight-point star, references the compass rose and the many geometrical patterns centered on the number eight encountered throughout Venice.

I made the original book while in Venice from scrap paper and whatever other materials that I found in my temporary studio, as well as paints/markers leftover from another artist. Nothing I used for the original book was purchased. I used only what I could find. The book began as a completely un-precious object, a map of my current mental and physical landscape, in an attempt to reflect the faded grandeur of the city of Venice. In many ways this work parallels Grandma Moses' in how it originated from found materials as well as how it plays with memory, identity and desire to portray a place not as it is, but as it is: a kind of time lost forever, but one that we constantly search for through nostalgia.