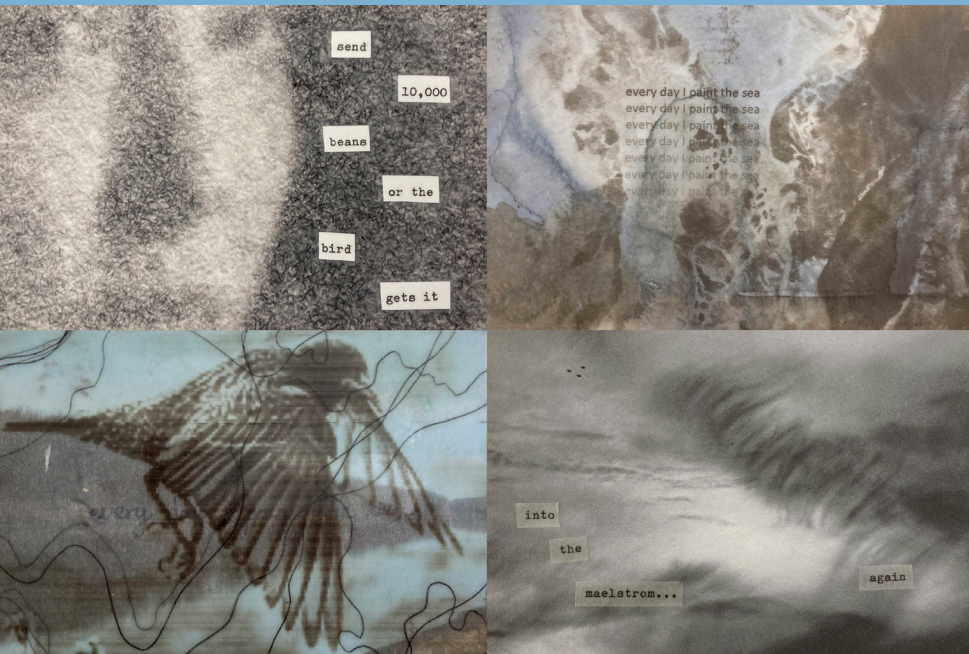


# JUST WONDERING...



**December 12, 2022 – February 25, 2023**

**Reception: December 13, 5-7 p.m.**

**Benedict and Dorothy Gorecki Gallery & Lounge  
Benedicta Arts Center**

The work in this exhibition reflects thoughts, experimentations, and exchanges between the artists during the time of their sabbaticals.

In the spring and summer of 2022, CSB and SJU art professors Elaine Rutherford and Scott Murphy created a collaborative portfolio. Each week, the two artists produced their own 4x6-inch postcards and sent them to each other. Communication occurred in the art on one side and the text on the other.

At the same time, each toiled away in their respective studios on their own art, yet, somehow much of what they created shares similar themes and subject matter. Was the slow art collaboration that was wandering through the mail responsible for this overlap? Or, were the two artists, with very different backgrounds, mining away on similar veins because of shared existential concerns, looking for meaning in what often feels like a meaningless and inconsolable world...

## CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS EXHIBITION ENGAGES WITH:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Environmental Studies
- Photography
- Mail Art
- Philosophy
- Book Arts
- Collaboration
- Poetry

## ONLINE RESOURCES

[www.befuddledpress.com](http://www.befuddledpress.com)

[www.rutherfordelaine.wordpress.com](http://www.rutherfordelaine.wordpress.com)

## ENGAGE

The two artists participated in a collaborative exchange of handmade postcards during an eight-month period in 2022.

- How does collaboration affect the way you do things?
- How has the art in the postcards been affected by the two artist's collaborating?
- How does the process of sending objects via the postal service impact the artwork and the communication between the artists?

The handmade books in the exhibition are meant to be engaged by the viewer, picked up, touched, read and considered.

- How does the act of touching and interacting with the art change your experience?
- Some of the photographs on the wall are of the smaller cards in the exhibition. Do you experience the larger wall prints differently than the smaller cards?

Scott Murphy uses photography, handmade paper and letterpress printing in his work.

- What role does the text play in the content?
- Do the photographs look like photographs? If not, how do they challenge your assumptions of what a photograph can be and what a photograph does?
- Clouds are a recurrent theme in his work. Why do you think he is using clouds? Why are they paired with quotes?

Elaine Rutherford uses graphite, charcoal, and watercolor in her work.

- Do any of the pieces have odd compositional arrangements or juxtapositions of dissonant spaces?
- How do they invite you into the composition or what questions do they make you ask?
- Rutherford uses the sea as a frequent motif in her work. What do you think this means?

While the two artists work with differing media, there is considerable overlap in their subject matter.

- Can you see any similar themes in their work?
- What are some of the different ways in which they approach similar questions?