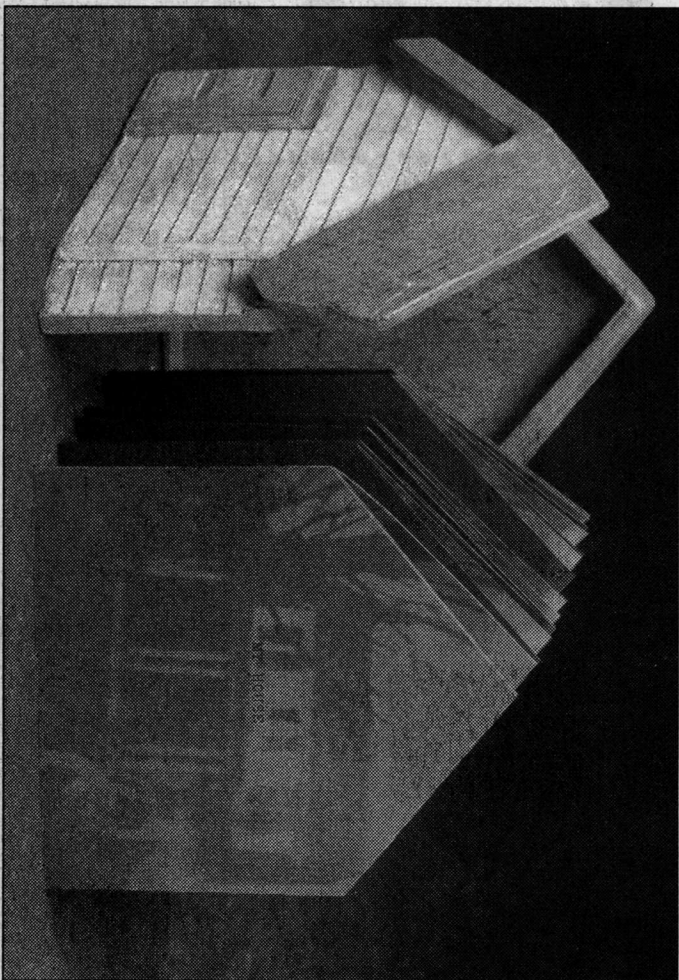


Bound To Happen: Hensel's work in West Virginia

My House, an artists book by East Lansing artist Susan Hensel is included in the show "Bound to Happen," that opening at West Virginia University Jan. 28. Hensel's book joins a wide ranging group of 27 artists who work in the field of artists' books. The artists were encouraged to send work that interpreted book arts in the broadest sense possible, showing everything from traditional projects to those that may challenge the notion of "book" through digital or sculptural form.

My House, an original text by Hensel, is a sentimental journey through a house, through a childhood that she says, "May even be my own." It is memories sweetened by distance.

"*My House* has been knocking around in my computer, in one form or another, for several years. While in a body cast, recovering from surgery, I spent a lot of creative time writing. I had decided to take an imaginary tour back to my childhood home to see what I might discover. What I wrote was so sweet it is amazing that my hard



MY HOUSE — By East Lansing's Susan Hensel, "My House" is on display in West Virginia and will display at Todd Mack Custom Framing Gallery in Lansing in March.

drive did not freeze up or attract ants in the ensuing years! About once a year, I would return to the piece, edit a bit, and throw my hands up in the air and give up. Finally, in the winter of 1998, I received an invitation to create a work involving architecture ... *My House* sprang to life again, lost about one thousand words, and found its form, layout and presentation," Hensel says.

Dawn Latane, referring to *My House* in the November/December issue of *Art Papers*, said, "The book has a dreamlike, elegiac quality."

The house-shaped book, printed in black on sepiatoned papers, is housed in a fully sculptural, house-shaped box, with old, cracked siding, and a heavy, textured roof line.

Locally, Hensel will be teaching in the Gate Program, Saturday School at Lansing Community College. This book, and many others can be seen at Todd Mack Custom Framing Gallery during the month of March.