Art you can touch

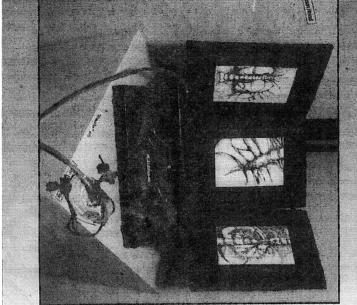
■ The Coyote Gallery invites artists from all over the United States to participate in 'Conceptually Bound' exhibition.

Shannon Re

Time has shown just how important stories and books have been in shaping our lives. Starting with cave paintings of the buffalo runs, people told stories by drawing on the cave walls. Then came the written word. Today's books tell similar stories. Many still have drawings that go with their written text, some fiction and non-fiction, history, tutorials, entertainment, and of course personal experiences:

Conceptually Bound 2, An Exhibition of Artists Books, is the second collection of artist's made books curated by Nanette Wilde, an artist and computer art instructor at California State University Chico. There are 58 pieces made by 28 artists. These books reference the individual context of what is meaningful in the artist's lives. The theme conceptually bound, refers to the idea that the content of the book is in part expressed by the form the books take.





Butte instructor, Daniel Donnelly's "Devil's Motor", came from pieces of a book from the early nineteen hundreds that fell apart when handled, he ran some of the pieces through his color copy machine and added contour drawings from his younger years to create it.

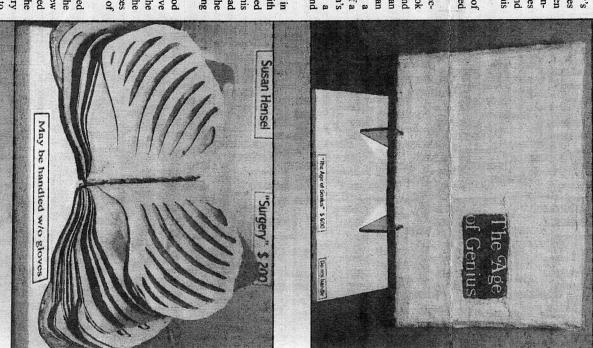
Louise Pryor's "The Age of Genius", is a book that is incased with a cast-like material.

Susan Hensel's "Breathe", is a decorated box that has a tri-fold book that opens to reveal the lungs and inner skeletal system of a human body, and attached to the box is an oxygen mask. Inside the box is a tape recorder playing the sound of a breathing machine with a woman's voice in the background singing a very solemn song of life and beyond.

Susan Hensel has other pieces in the show. "Surgery", is a book with cut-outs of the ribcage and stained pages of the spinal column. This book talks about the events that lead up to a surgical procedure and the experiences of a year surrounding the procedure.

Mike Mosher's "Devils Food Daniel", is a multi media interactive piece. It is a painted face with the computer screen representing the brain. You can view the experiences he has chosen to share by the click of a mouse.

Most of the pieces can be handled with white cotton gloves that the gallery provides. There are a few books that they prefer not be handled but they are all clearly marked. The Coyote Gallery is open every Monday though Friday 10am to 2pm.



PHOTOS BY SHANNON RE/ROADRUNNER