

## **ARA**

### **Les Amis de la Reliure d'Art**

### *Friends of Design Bookbinding*

Since 1982, ARA association has been active in France and in several countries (namely Belgium, Canada, Greece, Italy and Switzerland). It aims at promoting the art of binding.

ARA proposes regularly to its members (professional binders as well as qualified amateurs) international exhibitions of reference which allow them to present their works to a large audience and facilitates the discovery of new talents.

The FIRA – *International Design Bookbinding Forum* – brings regularly together binders, collectors, bibliophiles and art lovers to discover an exhibition of contemporary works from all over the world. Monaco, Basel, Toulouse, Luxemburg, Montreal, Venice, Athens, Limoges and Bruges have successively welcomed the FIRA between 1988 and 2011, gathering several thousands of participants and visitors.

#### **Recent exhibitions in France**

- Bindings of the World – *Reliures du Monde* – VIII<sup>th</sup> FIRA (Hospice Gallery, Limoges, 2005)
- Outlook on French Contemporary Bookbinding – *Regard(s) sur la reliure contemporaine en France, 1980-2007* (Town hall 6<sup>th</sup> district, Paris, 2008)
- Binding around Mallarmé... – *Autour de Mallarmé, la reliure...* (Stéphane Mallarmé Museum, Vulaines-sur-Seine, 2008)
- Gourmet Bindings – *Reliures Gourmandes* (L'Arsenal, Metz, 2009)
- Paris Bound – *Paris Relié, le Paris des relieurs contemporains* (Town hall 6<sup>th</sup> district, Paris, 2012)
- Paper Bindings, the Creative Fibre – *La Reliure en papier, la fibre créative* (Carnegie Library, Reims, 2013)
- Quebec's Staircases – *Les Escaliers de Québec* (ARA Canada, Sainte Geneviève Library, Paris, 2013)

Initiated in 2007 in partnership with Graphic and Book Art schools the "Prix ARA France de la Jeune Reliure" (distinctions attributed to students) reward, every other year, the outstanding works of junior binders during their tuition.

ARA also invites its members to take part in organized visits to libraries, private workshops, conferences and meetings with professionals and book artists.

ARA contributes to the renewal of today's contemporary design binding, a major book art in today's world of art, through events contributing to the acquisition and enrichment of knowledge and skilled practices, and allowing a dialogue, an exchange over common experiences, as well as the emergence of innovative forms and techniques.

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