

POETICS PLUS

SPRING
2018



A Book Art and Design Workshop with Fredrik Averin & Charles Alexander

Sunday, February 4

*Western New York Book Arts Center,
468 Washington St.*

12-1:30pm: Introduction to book art and design

1:30-3pm: Hands-on workshop with concrete poetry,
design, and book structures

3pm: Reading by Charles Alexander

Monday, February 5

*Letterpress Lab, Center for the Arts 150/151,
UB North Campus*

12-5pm: Hands-on workshop with letterpress and
further work on book assembly, with ongoing critique
and consultation

5-6pm: Sharing of work and open discussion on the
processes, business, and politics of publishing

This two-day workshop is free and open to UB students, staff, faculty, and friends. Email Sean Pears (spears@buffalo.edu) to sign up or for more information. In order to get the most out of the workshop, participants should prepare a 4-400 word text that they would like to work with. This could be a sentence, a phrase, a short story, an essay, or a concrete poem. It could also be a series of images, collages, or a pairing of text and image.

Arriving at the workshop with material will allow time to focus on the design and book making process.

Born in Stockholm, Sweden, Fredrik Averin received his MFA from Konstfack University College of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm. As a book designer, typographer, and poet, Averin questions the format and purpose of the book through the exploration of language, human intention, hidden narratives, and self-awareness. In his work, the printed and unprinted page remains a canvas in which there's infinite possibilities, confusion, forgiveness, and solace. Collections of his work can be found at MACBA: Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, University of Oregon, University of Washington, State University of New York at Buffalo, Columbia University, Stanford University, and SFMOMA. Since 2016, he is also the proprietor of The Idea of the Book, an online bookstore focusing on rare books and material in the overlapping fields of art, design, and concrete poetry. He currently lives and works in the rain of Portland, Oregon.

Charles Alexander's most recent book of poetry, being released February 1, 2018, is *AT the Edge OF the Sea: Pushing Water II*. An electronic chapbook of three essays was just released by the Poetry Center of San Francisco State University. He has published five previous full-length books of poetry, thirteen chapbooks and fine press books, and has edited one collection of essays on the state of the book arts in America. In 1981 he began creating letterpress books of contemporary literature, and in 1984 founded Chax Press, which has to date published more than 200 books, primarily poetry. After nearly 30 years in Tucson, Arizona, Alexander moved in 2014 to Texas where he directs the MFA Creative Writing Program and the undergraduate Design Program at the University of Houston-Victoria.