

## ART & SCIENCE: CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS

January 21 – April 5, 2020

(closed March 14-22)

### Gaylord Schanilec

#### BIO

Best known for his color wood engravings, Gaylord Schanilec has set the standard for contemporary artist's books over the last forty years. His widely collected and unique fine press books explore his interests and research of the Midwest environment. Proprietor of Midnight Paper Sales Press, Schanilec resides in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Books featured in this exhibition: *Waterfalls of the Mississippi* (1998), *Mayflies of the Driftless Region* (2005), *Sylvæ* (2007), *Lac Des Pleurs* (2015), *My Mighty Journey* (2019).

#### About the books:

**1998 Waterfalls of the Mississippi** by, Richard Arey, Minnesota Outdoors Press.  
-Eight color wood engravings, 6 x 10 inches. 84 pages. 200 numbered copies. 7 color wood engravings by Gaylord Schanilec. Map by Richard Arey. Type composed in Garamond Monotype by Michael Bixler. Printed on Zerkall mould-made paper. Bound in cloth over boards at the Campbell-Logan Bindery, with leather label and slipcase. [on display is a selection of wood blocks and prints]

**2005 Mayflies of the Driftless Region**, Clarke Garry, Midnight Paper Sales  
-Thirteen color wood engravings, plus a 2-color title page engraving  
STANDARD EDITION Midnight Paper Sales 2005. 7½ x 10½ inches. 88 pages. 300 copies. 14 color wood engravings (13 specimen plates plus a microscope) by Gaylord Schanilec. 13 entomological identifications of specimens by Dr. Clarke Garry. Hand-set in Bembo monotype. Printed on Zerkal mould-made paper. Bound

in quarter leather by Gregor Campbell with handmade paper by Mary Hark. Issued in a slipcase. (Available "in sheets.") Standard Edition  
Winner of a Judges Choice Award at the 2005 Oxford Fine Press Bookfair and of the Carl Hertzog Award for "excellence in book design."

#### SPECIAL EDITION

7½ x 10½ inches. 88 pages. 50 copies. 14 color wood engravings (13 specimen plates plus a microscope) by Gaylord Schanilec. 13 entomological identifications of specimens by Dr. Clarke Garry. Hand-set in Bembo monotype. Plates printed on Gampi Torinoko handmade paper. Text printed on Zerkal mould-made paper. Bound in full chestnut morocco by Jill Jevne. Portfolio of the same leather, with paper sides hand made for the edition by Mary Hark, and wood contains two folders: (1) seven proof sheets and (2) an extra suite of the engravings, each titled & signed. Both volumes are housed in a slipcase (7 3/4 x 14 1/2) of leather, paper boards, and wood with a glass window at the top, revealing 8 flies hand tied for the edition by David Lucca. OUT OF PRINT.

**2007 Sylvæ**, Benjamin Verhoeven and Gaylord Schanilec, Midnight Paper Sales -fifty-one color specimen images printed from the wood, one wood engraved portrait, one wood engraved map.

Twenty wooded acres surround Midnight Paper Sales in western Wisconsin. This book documents the journey of Ben Verhoeven and Gaylord Schanilec into the woods to create a work not only about these trees, but of these trees. In all 24 species have been catalogued through image, historical anecdotes, and notes taken during the cutting, milling, engraving and printing. The 53 images consist primarily of long grain and end grain specimens which have been taken from this property. In each case the image is manipulated through either color, impression, engraving, or some combination of the above to emphasize a certain characteristic of a species. The text varies as well from tree to tree, focusing on what role each played in the local history and in this project.

**2015 Lac Des Pleurs**, The text—commentary on passage through Lake Pepin by Louis Hennepin, George Featherstonhaugh, Henry Schoolcraft, George Catlin,

Jonathan Carver, Zebulon Montgomery Pike, Charles Latrobe, Henry David Thoreau, and Oliver Gibbs Jr., with related excerpts from Harriet Bell Carlander, George Wagner, Robert E. Coker, C. A. Lesueur, Thaddeus Surber, Paul Harder, and Mark Twain; an introduction by Patrick K. Coleman & an epilogue by Gaylord Schanilec. -Seven multi-color wood engravings by GS, one wood engraved map.

The type printed on these pages was originally cast in Monotype for previous Midnight Paper Sales books, then redistributed into the case, and hand set here by Jean Louise Egger, Wyatt Sandberg, and Gaylord Schanilec. With much of the text set in Bembo, the diminished supply of type prompted setting Lesueur's paper in Poliphilus, a move that made the printer nervous until it came to light that both faces were based on the printing of Aldus Manutius.

**2019 My Mighty Journey**, John Coy, Midnight Paper Sales. Sixteen images printed from objects collected along the Mississippi River along with various wood cut and wood engraved blocks.

With stunning letterpress images, *My Mighty Journey* captures the history of the Mississippi's only waterfall, St. Anthony Falls, from the perspective of the water itself as it moves gradually upstream over twelve thousand years. Award-winning writer John Coy teamed up with internationally acclaimed artist Gaylord Schanilec to bring to life this story of what—and who—the waterfall witnessed as it moved from present-day St. Paul to its current location in downtown Minneapolis. Schanilec, who created the images in the studios at Minnesota Center for Book Arts, used materials foraged from the riverbank. The *My Mighty Journey* team will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the artistry and research behind this spectacular book.

**LARGE PAPER EDITION [on display]**

10 x 15 inches. 192 pages. 26 lettered copies. 53 relief prints (wood cuts and wood engravings). 25 wood specimens. With historical anecdotes by Benjamin Verhoeven, and production notes by Gaylord Schanilec. Text set in Bembo monotype and printed on Twin Rocker hand-made paper. Images printed on Zerkall mould-made paper. Bound at Booklab 2 in a medieval style, laced board binding with quarter-sawn white oak boards and an alum-tawed goat skin spine.

## ABOUT GAYLORD SCHANILEC

(From "A bookmaker, unbound" by Mary Abbe, Star Tribune, February 2013):

Even in this tech-obsessed time, a master book artist like Gaylord Schanilec can not only survive but gain international renown for his spectacular craftsmanship... Actually, the world didn't beat a path to Schanilec's door. Instead, he took his meticulously handmade books to New York, London and beyond, and collectors leapt at them like trout after mayflies. They're in special collections everywhere from Los Angeles' J. Paul Getty Museum to the New York Public Library, Harvard, Yale, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Bodleian Library at Oxford. Back in Schanilec's home state, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and Walker Art Center own his books, as do the Minnesota Historical Society and the University of Minnesota.

"He's one of the two or three finest color wood-engravers ever. He's really that good," said Robert Rulon-Miller, a rare book dealer in St. Paul who has followed Schanilec's career for more than 30 years. "He's a man of many parts: engraver, printer, bookbinder, editor, writer, natural philosopher, and he brings all this stuff together into his books." Handmade everything A bibliography of Schanilec's print projects, recently compiled by Rulon-Miller, lists more than 600 items including dozens of books he's written, designed, typeset or illustrated, plus hundreds of bits of ephemera ranging from pamphlets to a special bookmark for the Hennepin County Library system.

Schanilec's books are no mass-market marvels. A typical print run might result in just 25 copies; his largest printing is about 1,000 volumes. Each is a labor of love for which the artist hand-sets each letter of type, designs every page, carves the illustrations into blocks of wood and prints them in multiple colors. He does not make the paper but has on occasion done the binding himself. They take as long as two or more years to make and typically sell for \$150 and up. "He's incredibly talented at using very difficult techniques to translate a visual narrative into beautiful artwork," said Jeff Rathermel, executive director of the Minnesota Center for Book Arts. "He just happens to be in our back yard, but he's recognized internationally."

Over the years he has printed poems and broadsides for such luminaries as Robert Bly, Gary Snyder and Meridel Le Sueur, as well as memoirs by former Minnesota

Gov. Elmer L. Andersen and philanthropist Kenneth Dayton. His two books about New York City include "The Bicycle Diaries," an acclaimed collaboration with writer Richard Goodman on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy.

Rooted in Minnesota, he is best known, however, for his own writing and illustrations on regional topics as wide-ranging — and esoteric — as St. Paul's now-demolished High Bridge, Mississippi waterfalls and "Mayflies of the Driftless Region." An award winner at the 2005 Oxford Book Fair, the "Mayflies" book involved four years of research ... and features 13 pristine engravings detailing every aspect of the insects, down to the veins of their translucent wings. "His work is so quintessentially Minnesotan it seems bred in the bone," said Patrick Coleman, rare books curator at the Minnesota Historical Society. His observations of flora and fauna are so keen that "fly fishermen and other people really melt," Coleman said.