



The completed codex with its 3D printed Voronoi case, and the book opened to a printed page.

VETA GORNER

THE BOOK OF HOURS AND BREATHS

An artist's book - sized to hold a single human breath - Masters Degree show at Central Saint Martins, UAL, London

1 – 4 July: 12-8pm | 5 July: 12-6pm

before travelling to Venice International School of Graphics in September

Veta Gorner, artist/printmaker, Fellow of the Royal Society of Printmakers, and 2026 MRes Theory and Philosophy of Art candidate at Central Saint Martins, UAL - presents ***The Book of Hours and Breaths***, a handmade codex made over twenty-four uninterrupted hours at the press and built to one exact measurement: the volume of a single deliberate breath, 1,000ml (15 × 15 × 4.5cm). It debuts at her Central Saint Martins' degree show this summer, before travelling to Venice in the autumn.



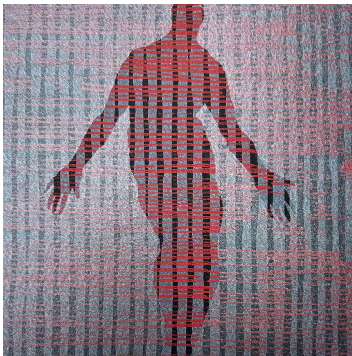
The starting provocation was simple: our screens and devices are built to hide what anything actually costs - the effort, the material, the time - until you stop registering it at all. The response was to make a book that does the opposite: something slow, built to travel, and physically demanding to produce, that puts that cost back in plain sight. Twenty years of printmaking, two years of academic studies and the twenty-four hours spent at the press are a form of recalibration and thinking in the making. The book is a one-off and asks the same thing of the reader that it asked of the maker - attention, patience, and a willingness to be changed by holding it. It is one part of the broader project that borrows its structure from that single deep breath, split into four equal parts - *inhale, hold, exhale, rest*. Turn the page to see how each one works.

THE BOXED BREATH



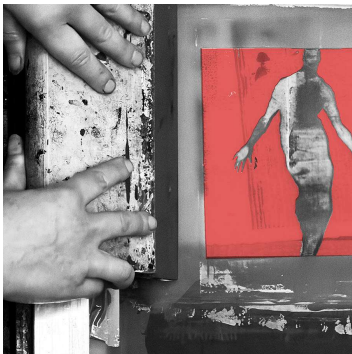
INHALE - The Thinking

20,000-word study distilling process philosophy, Spinoza's legacy and affect theory - mind and body are one substance to a practical question: what does the repeated physical act of working the press over twenty-four hours do? There for anyone who wants the deeper argument.



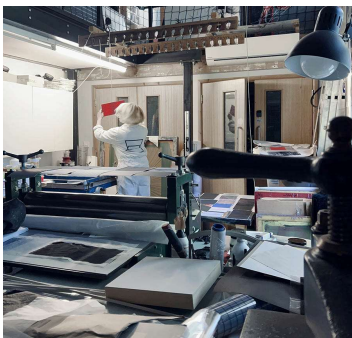
HOLD - The Codex

The book carries no text - it's part print, painting, and sculpture. Some pages carry a heat-reactive layer invisible until touched - the warmth of a hand reveals previously hidden imagery; each reader changes the page just by holding it. The binding is Coptic, with an exposed spine and a black leather cover; the case is 3D-printed in a Voronoi pattern, the same load-distributing structure found in dragonfly wings. Lift the book out, a light source placed inside - the case becomes a lantern.



EXHALE - The Event

The book was made during a single 24-hour Print Vigil - one body, one studio, working through a full turn of the earth, structured around the medieval Book of Hours' eight canonical hours. Early impressions are precise; by the later hours, fatigue takes over and each layer lands a millimetre or so off from the last - a record of physical strain, not a mistake to fix. Two texts accompany the event - *Animations of the Print Vigil*, an account of the body at work and *Pressmarks Lexicon* - printmakers' terms seen through the prism of philosophy.



REST - The Archive

Alongside the book sits a studio archive from the 24 hours, before and after, photos, notes, sketches. The archive is housed in the handmade box with paper pulped from the remnants of the paper of the book.

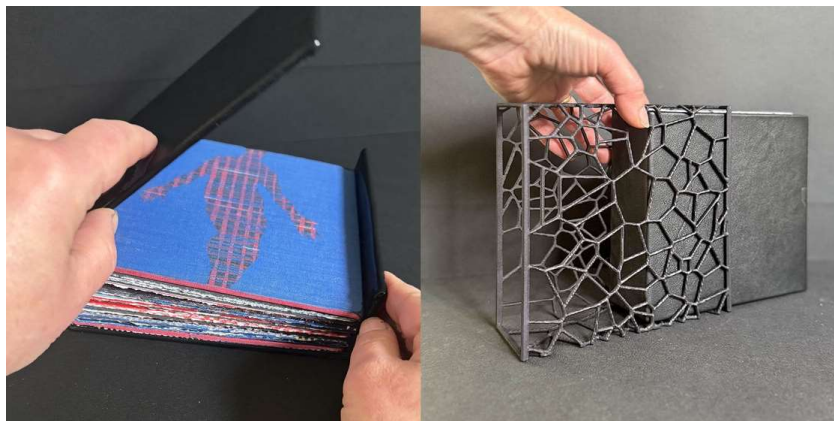
Acquire / Collaborate

There are two ways to own a piece of the project, and a third way to engage with the original work itself.

For those who want the full experience, a made-to-order codex in its own Voronoi case, together with full project documentation, can be commissioned. Each codex is produced entirely by hand - a unique object in its own right, sharing the language of the original project. Price, specification, and logistics are all discussed individually on enquiry.

A more accessible edition is also available: a set of small prints drawn from the Print Vigil, together with a copy of the Pressmarks Lexicon. Enquiries are welcome.

The full project - written paper, artist book, studio archive, and Pressmarks Lexicon - is available separately for exhibitions, residencies, and teaching contexts. For collaboration or future Vigil projects, do get in touch.



Coptic binding and exposed spine; the Voronoi case being lifted away from the book.

The Second Vigil - 12 July 2026

The vigil repeats - the event in real time.
Instagram/vetagorner.



About Veta Gorner

Veta Gorner is a UK-based artist / printmaker working in etching, silkscreen, and lithography, with a background in architecture, design, and publishing. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Printmakers in 2016 and has shown at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and in solo shows including *Hymns* (Eames Fine Art, 2023) and *Moving Parts* (Eames Fine Art, 2021).

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High-resolution images available on request.

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- **The Measure of Bliss - Degree Show:** Central Saint Martins, Granary Building, London
1 – 4 July: 12-8pm | 5 July: 12-6pm
tickets: <https://www.arts.ac.uk/whats-on/csm-shows-2026-postgraduate-art>
 - **The Book of Hours and Breaths - Venice:** Scuola Internazionale di Grafica, September 2026