



### **The metal bookbinding, the metal book**

This will be a talk about the use of metal in book bindings and its use in the book as a whole. I will show historical examples and examples of my own books - with metal used in the bindings and full metal books.

When we think about metal in connection with the book what comes to mind first are brass clasps for holding a book closed. This is the most common use of metal on a binding. However, the use of metal is slightly more prevalent than this, from holy books in the medieval age to James Brockman's stunning binding in silver of Vins, Fleurs et Flammes.

I will discuss the making of a set of four books with hinge bindings and my use of metal in the binding and the housing boxes.

What is rarer is the whole book made from metal. There are a few historical examples of full metal books from the early twentieth century. I will discuss the process of making such a book fully from metal sheet pages with an appropriate metal binding, taking inspiration from these early bindings.

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Since completing her arts education (1985–1990) at East Sydney Technical College (now the National Art School) and City Art Institute (now UNSW Art & Design) majoring in printmaking, Monica's involvement in the book arts field has been multifaceted.

In the 1980s she turned her focus to book arts, learnt hand bookbinding and has been working as an artist/printmaker producing books. Although interested in the history of bookbinding and the many possible technical variations of bindings, the binding of her own books is very directed by the content of the work. The complexity of the book offers many opportunities to explore serious contemporary ideas with greater depth than works for the wall. The use of image and text is a given in books and this appeals to Monica.

Her work has been included in many exhibitions and is held in many collections.

Monica has been a member of the NSW Guild of Craft Bookbinders for many years and is currently the President.