

Michael J. Dennis

Michael Dennis holds a B.A. in graphic design from American University and an M.F.A. in design from George Washington University. While in graduate school he studied traditional hand-craft book binding. He taught design, typography and book arts for American and George Washington Universities for twenty-five years. For over thirty years he was a principal partner in the graphic design firm that he founded in 1982. In 2002 he opened Bookworks, a combination used bookstore and book arts studio in Berkeley Springs, WV. After moving to Rappahannock County with his husband Paul Smith in 2012, he built a new studio/workshop and moved Bookworks to Flint Hill in 2015. His one-of-a-kind artist's books are comprised of abstract color studies executed in a unique medium that he developed. Part collage, part marquetry, the compositions are composed of tiny pieces of colored paper that are perfectly inlaid to form a seamless planographic surface. He makes use of many non-western book structures. He also produces design bindings of finely printed vintage books and a product line of blank books and presentation boxes.