



Photography by Mary Ellen Bartley

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by Pat Rogers

Mary Ellen Bartley's subject is books. Her fine art photography sprung into the public eye with compositions using stacks of books or pages in seeming mid-motion as muse. More recently, pages of books or sheets of paper have been used to create abstract photographs as a twist on Bartley's now-classic compositions. Much of Bartley's contemporary photography has a Modern sensibility—clean lines, classic compositions and a soothing palate.

Mary Ellen Bartley's photography has been causing a stir in the Hamptons and New York City for the last few years. Bartley's had solo shows in 2014 at [Yancey Richardson Gallery](#) in Chelsea. She's been included in invitational and group shows at the [Parrish Art Museum](#) and [Guild Hall](#). Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at art fairs including [Paris Photo](#), The Armory Show and Miami Project. In the Hamptons, she exhibits regularly at The Drawing Room in East Hampton, N.Y.

Now, she's added a Watermill Center artist-in-residency to her credits. Currently working on a new series, the plan is to create a new photography series using books as muse that catch her eye from the Watermill Center Study Library. The images are then expected to create a "book of books". Keep your eyes peeled to see how it turns out.

Selections from several series from the past five years were presented in a 2014 solo show at Guild Hall. Click on our slideshow to see photographs from "Mary Ellen Bartley: Leaning Above the Page":

[View Slideshow](#)



"All Night Near the Water from the series Blue Books" by Mary Ellen Bartley, 2010. Photograph, 20 x 25 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

BASIC FACTS: "Mary Ellen Bartley: Leaning Above the Page" was exhibited from October 25, 2014 through January 4, 2015 at Guild Hall in East Hampton, N.Y. www.guildhall.org. Mary Ellen Bartley is one of two artist-in-residency at Watermill Center from February 3 - 28, 2015.

Mary Ellen Bartley is based in Wainscott in the Hamptons. www.maryellenbartley.com

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