Guilford College Art Gallery is pleased to present this retrospective exhibition of more than forty years of design bindings by internationally acclaimed bookbinder Monique Lallier. Hege Library is proud to house several of Monique’s fine bindings, an esteemed enhancement to the library’s Special Collections through contributions by longtime College benefactors Daniel D. and Beth Mosca.

Monique is known for her creative and thoughtful approaches to the subjects of her binding projects. While reading the texts, she is attentive to “the atmosphere of the book;” writing down words that struck her or helped her understand it, and trying to “feel the color of it.” Her bindings reflect the spirit of the texts, while being imaginative and artistic interpretations of the author’s works. Her use of unusual materials such as eggshells, pewter, colorful wires, agates, lizard and snake skin -- even her own hair -- and innovative techniques including cutouts, reveals, pop-ups, and moveable parts make her bindings both distinctive and dynamic.

Born in Montréal, Canada, Lallier now resides in Summerfield, NC, where she, and her husband, Don Etherington, himself a world-renowned book binder and conservator, have a shared bookbinding studio in their beautiful, art-filled home. There, and at the American Academy of Bookbinding in Telluride, Colorado, Monique generously shares her mastery of bookbinding techniques with scores of students who are eager to learn from the best.

Thanks are due to a number of people for helping to make this exhibition and the accompanying catalogue a reality. We are grateful to Dan and Beth Mosca, whose gifts of design bindings by Monique Lallier and Don Etherington in 2008 and 2015 began the College’s relationship with these celebrated artists. We are indebted to anonymous donors for their generous gift in support of this exhibition and catalogue. The exhibition draws from both institutional and private collections; we offer our sincere appreciation to these generous lenders, who have enabled us to realize this first retrospective of Monique Lallier’s design bindings.

Theresa N. Hammond
Founding Director and Curator, Guilford College Art Gallery