

# GEORGE BILLIS GALLERY

212.645.2621

**MAUREEN MULLARKEY**  
MARCH 29 - APRIL 23, 2016

For Release: Immediately



O Gaudium, collage on book board,  
9x5.5"

George Billis Gallery is pleased to announce Maureen Mullarkey and her work at the New York location. This exhibition will run from **March 29 through April 23, 2016**. The **opening reception** will be held at the George Billis Gallery located at 525 West 26th Street between 10th and 11th avenues on **Thursday, March 31 from 6-8pm**.

These collages are built from the stuff of old books or handwritten letters and ledgers. Information is a tool but love of reading is a way of life. Like any love, it has a physical dimension. There is more to it than simply ingesting print. It begins with pleasure in the look, feel, and weight of a book. Even the smell of books carries a certain enchantment. Old ones in particular, redolent with history, prod us to imagine a world without us in it, the world our children will inherit. They tilt our attention toward the future by reminding us that the present passes, in Joseph Brodsky's phrase, "at the speed of a turning page."

Digital literacy, that darling of techno-utopians, competes now with physical books and the solitary, contemplative print culture nourished by them. Champions of screen reading predict that the paper book—an instrument of modernity—might not be around much longer. Consider, then, the contrasting possibility that in this digital age, books and book arts matter more than ever before.

In our post-Gutenberg world, communication is increasingly disembodied. It flickers across a screen, fugitive and insubstantial. We inhabit an impatient culture, distracted by technologies that advance convenience and facilitate the hunt for information. Techno-readers can carry whole libraries in their pockets. But it is not the gadgetry that ripens the reader or enriches their life, it is the word itself.

Ms. Mullarkey has written on art and cultural issues for various national publications, including The Nation, Crisis, Commonweal, Hudson Review, Arts, Newsday, and The New York Times. She is a member of the International Association of Art Critics (A.I.C.A.), the National Arts Club, and was elected to Who's Who in American Art in 1991. She is currently a senior contributor to The Federalist. Ms. Mullarkey's work is included in various corporate and private collections.

The George Billis Gallery marks its 20th year in the Chelsea Art district and its sister gallery is located in the burgeoning gallery district of Culver City in Los Angeles. For more information, please contact the gallery via e-mail at [gALLERY@GEORGEBILLIS.COM](mailto:gALLERY@GEORGEBILLIS.COM) or visit our website at [www.georgebillis.com](http://www.georgebillis.com)

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Strawberry Ballad, collage on book board, 7.5x8.5"