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EARTH	WIND	FIRE	WATER	AIR
abyss	vastness	lucence	music	deeps
matrix	earthquakes	torrents	blood	source
sludge	calm	stars	oceans	still
lava	turmoil	lightning	rivers	dawn
rockfall	caves	desire	glaciers	drifts
mountains	whirlwind	dazzle	flux	dragons
galaxies	ascent	aureole	lake	clarities
swans	oboes	ash	springs	sleep
measure	whisper	flight	syllables	mist
reeds	soaring	phoenix	tides	echoes
anchors	cock-crow	kites	mirrors	being
shores	release	comets	seas	peace
zones	summit	wheel	rainfall	silence
AIR	WATER	FIRE	WIND	EARTH

AIR

A rhapsody of air
and light
a whispered radiance
the watch
at peace sleeps
my kite, high,
invisible,
utters syllables
of delight.

WATER

The swan adrift
among quiet reeds
downgazing, sees
the moon on the water;
a kite
airborn
lashed still
to the sky.

FIRE

The dance of the dragon
blazes on the mountain;
words burn
on the tablets
of my mind

WIND

The wind is drumming
in hollow caves
My kite is soaring
to the song of spheres
Oboes are summoning
the dawn

EARTH

Torn from sludge
hurled to the whirlwind
battered by stars
the kite
reaches the moon
at last

AIR

A rhapsody of air
and light
a whispered radiance
the earth
at peace sleeps
my kite, high,
invisible,
utters syllables
of delight.

WATER

The swan adrift
among quiet reeds
downgazing, sees
the moon on the water:
a kite
airborn
tethered still
to the sky.

FIRE

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AIR	WATER	FIRE	WIND	EARTH





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AIR BORN, An Artists' Book by Ann M. Kresge

TEN THOUSAND THINGS, A Poem by Melinda Kennedy

Kite Instructions by Tal Streeter

This artists' book was co-published by Mossybrook Press in High Falls, New York and Women's Studio Workshop in Rosendale, New York. It was created in a limited edition of 100 with 20 artist's proofs. The prints combine etching, relief printing and chine colle. They are printed on hand-made Japanese Kozo paper. The type, Helvetica, is letterpress printed by the artist. The kite structures are based on traditional Japanese kites.

Special thanks to Ann Kalmbach and the WSW staff, Margarita Becerra Cano, Angelo Ciotti and Tal Streeter. Deepest gratitude to Melinda Kennedy for her words and collaborative spirit and to Herrick Jackson who made this project possible.

A. Kresge 41/100

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AIR	WATER	FIRE	WIND	EARTH

To fly an *Air Born* kite you will need cotton or cotton/poly sewing thread to make a bridle, a bow string and flying line. You may also want to make a paper tail. It's the relationships between the bow string, the bridle string and tail that make it possible to fly your kite in various wind conditions. *Air Born* kites require a fairly stiff breeze. Use the already strung kite as a prototype to make one of your own. To prepare for flight, check and make final adjustments to the bow string, bridle and tail. Here's how they work:

Bowing helps the breeze flow smoothly over the kite's surface and gives it stability in flight. The bow string runs horizontally between the two top corner bamboo bones. On your prototype pull the free end across the back (non-image side) bowing the kite to a depth of one to one and a half inch. Keep the bow in place by wrapping the loose string around the bone on the opposite upper corner. A knot is not necessary, the tension will hold it securely in place. Remember to unbow the kite when you put it away.

The **bridle string** is connected in three places. One (twice the vertical length) is connected to the bone on either top side and one is threaded through the kite and tied to the center bone a quarter of the way from the bottom. Tie the vertical bridle string at the exact midpoint of the horizontal string. Looking at the kite from the side, the knot should be approximately (a little above or a little below) perpendicular to the kite's face, one third of the way down from the top of the kite. As the wind speed varies you can adjust the bridle for lift by adjusting the relationship to the flying line. In light wind set the angle of the kite perpendicular to the line, in heavy wind the angle should be more acute (75-80 degrees) at the top. The prototype is bridled for general flying.

Paper tails and bowing serve the same purpose helping the kite to fly straight and not loop and dart from side to side out of control. The bow works without adding additional weight to the kite. The tail is very beautiful to see in the sky, and you may prefer to use it just for this reason. *Air Born* kites fly best with two tails, one tied to each of the bottom corners of the kite face. You will have to experiment with different lengths and widths to arrive at dimensions best suited to the day's wind. In really heavy winds you may need to bow the kite and add a tail.

To Fly

Stand with your back to the wind. Hold the kite at arms length, straight up until the winds lift it out of your hand. Maintain tension on the flying line while letting it out as fast as the wind lifts your kite into the sky. When the wind is light ask a friend to help by holding the kite at its base, straight up overhead, at the angle set by the bridle, twenty-five to fifty feet downwind. Maintain light tension on the flying line. Then pull down evenly on the flying line, pulling the kite out of your friend's finger tips. Sometimes helpers want to assist by throwing the kite up into the air. This may not help, but you can experiment with both techniques to see which works best for you. If you are not successful after several attempts, make some changes to the tail and/or bow string. Let out a lot of string and watch your kite fish and play in the sky. You can help it find the air currents by pulling in the kite with a short crisp movement then slowly letting out flying line. Your kite will continue to rise until it finds its own zenith, its home in the sky.

Troubleshooting

If on take-off your kite repeatedly dives into the ground the bridle angle is too acute. If it doesn't go up it's not acute enough. If the kite immediately and repeatedly arcs to the right or left chances are the bridle is off center. You can use a thin piece of tape in place of a knot as a hedge to get this center point exactly right without having to undo knots. To check right and left balance, let the kite hang down from the bridle point. It should hang parallel to the ground. But make adjustment according to how it lies. These adjustments can be very subtle, even for experts.

Kite flying, like baseball and dancing, is not always as simple as it appears or we imagined it would be. Take care when flying your kite. Try not to pull it along the ground or tug it out of trees. Slow down. Talk to your kite. Listen for its answer - the harmonies of poetry, art, kite, wind and sky.

Tal Streeter

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galaxies	ascent	aureole	lake	clarities
swans	oboes	ash	springs	
measure	whisper			

To fly an Air Bom kite you will need cotton or cotton/poly sewing thread to make a bridle, a bow string and flying line. You may also want to make a paper tail. It's the relationships between the bow string, the bridle string and tail that make it possible to fly your kite in various wind conditions. Air Bom kites require a fairly stiff breeze. Use the already strung kite as a prototype to make one of your own. To prepare for flight, check and make final adjustments to the bow string, bridle and tail. Here's how they work:

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