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Book Club

Reviews and recommendations from critic Ron Charles.



By Ron Charles



"She Feels Your Absence Deeply," by Golnar Adili (2021), is a puzzle book on display at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington. (© Golnar Adili/Women's Studio Workshop)

Several curious book-related exhibits have opened in Washington and New York:

- Today, the National Museum of Women in the Arts in D.C. launches a show celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Women's Studio Workshop. Since 1974, the nonprofit WSW has provided space for women, trans, intersex, nonbinary and gender-fluid artists, including papermakers, printers and book creators. The exhibit includes zines, ephemera, archival materials and books that radically redefine what a book can be and do ([details](#)).
- [The Folio Society](#), a London-based publisher of fine books, has opened an exhibit showcasing the work of more than 90 artists who have illustrated its books over the past eight decades. "The Art of Folio," at the Society of Illustrators Museum in New York through July 12, contains illustrations created by Sam Weber, Neil Packer, Yuko Shimizu and many others for works of science fiction, fantasy, comics, children's literature and old and new classics ([details](#)).
- "After Words," a new exhibit at the Grolier Club in New York, explores visual and experimental poetry in little magazines and small presses over the last 65 years ([details](#)). The exhibit, which runs through July 26, features about 150 examples — collage, performance scripts, erasure, experimental typography and "beyond" — that illustrate "the decentering and reimagining of language." I didn't know what that meant either till I looked at the lavishly illustrated exhibit catalogue by Steve Clay and M.C. Kinniburgh published by [Granary Books](#).❖