

1.Pisano\_Caudex Folium-poems.jpg

2.Pisano\_Caudex Folium-spine.jpg

**Caudex Folium:** Spring is a time of nature's renewal, bringing with it new life and beauty to share. Using the Callery pear Survivor Tree as my inspiration, the book celebrates the return of the tree to the 9-11 Memorial plaza, after it was nourished back to health and in 2010 replanted in between the two memorial pools.

The National September 9-11 Memorial Plaza opened to the public on September 12, 2011, a day after the families of the 9-11 victims had their ceremony, marking ten years since visitors had been allowed at the site. Blue ribbons were attached to the tree branches with hand written notes by the families and subsequently visitors and families continue to leave tributes at its base. Today the tree stands as a symbol of strength, resilience and the indestructible spirit of hope in adversity. It has become a focal point for visitors to reflect and pay their respect to this living symbol that can be shared by everyone. Memory Press © 2016. [http://mariagpisano.com/?page\\_id=53](http://mariagpisano.com/?page_id=53)

3.Pisano\_Viva Voce-libretti + .jpg

4.Pisano\_Viva Voce-Love Poems.jpg

**Viva Voce** is a response to landays taken from Songs of Love and War: Afghan Women's Poetry, collected by Sayd Bahadine Marjoun, who was subsequently assassinated.

The landays are anonymous, unwritten poems, sung by Pashtun women. These women subsist in a culture where they are isolated and discriminated against, live under strict Sharia law, are kept segregated and hidden, and as chattel, they are traded and sold like goods by their own families.

The book celebrates women's undying spirit, even in the most austere, repressive and confined world they live in, their voices raised to sing about love, violence, exile and war. They dare to sing of that which is unimaginable. The songs speak of love, something that is not permissible or possible for them, yet they still release these visceral and emotionally laden words, which have hope and imagined happiness.

The work is made up of four libretti, Love, War, Exile and Violence. Poems from each of these themes were chosen from Songs of Love and War, and are paired with visual responses. They are contained in a structure that is a symbolic prison, but on opening each libretto is removable to be read, seen, and experienced.

5.Pisano\_Colors-of-Memory.jpg

**Colors of Memory** presents four environments that echo transformative experiences. The books, Primavera, Estate, Autunno and Inverno, with their accompanying poems, resonate with patterns that span one's lifetime alongside the natural patterns of the seasons. Each season is a marker, a passage, beginning with Primavera, a time of discovery and self-awareness and ending with Inverno, a time of fragility, loss and death. A limited edition artist's book designed, printed and bound by the artist, Maria G. Pisano. All poems are written by the artist, except Primavera, a haiku written by Michael Pisano.

6.Pisano\_Breathe.jpg

**Breathe:** is a response to The Flower Soul, a poem by Imogen Brashear Oakley, from the collection Awake America and Other Verses, Philadelphia, 1934. In the poem the

ephemeral nature of one's life, its fragility, its physical manifestations, are likened to flowers in nature, which with their scents, permeate our consciousness and re-awaken our connections. Housed in a paste paper wrapper.

7.Pisano\_Tunnel Vision.jpg

**Tunnel Vision:** The book is based on the story of Holland Tunnel, alongside a child's imaginary view of the tunnel. Its structure is a tunnel book, 200 cm long when fully opened. The inside of the book depicts the imaginary vision of a colorful underwater world, where vintage and modern cars travel through its space accompanied by colorful fish in coral reefs. The outside of the book represents the reality: close to 6 million tiles were used for the tunnel, reflected in the pattern used to create the outer walls of the book. It is here that some of the more significant historical facts of the tunnel and my story are written. The book is dedicated to my father, a manual laborer, whose hard work and contributions remained anonymous. Similarly, the workers of the tunnel, who worked under extreme conditions, were never recognized. This book seemed an ideal venue to mesh the child's fantasy and the historical background.