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ATTN: Arts Editor

Opening Exhibition, Laura Korman Gallery

Bergamot Station Arts Center, Santa Monica

May 17- July 23, 2016

Reception: Saturday, May 21, 1-4 p.m.

## CENDRILLON

### Presenting Artist Cara Barer

Laura Korman Gallery is pleased to exhibit artist Cara Barer in the gallery's forthcoming exhibition, CENDRILLON. The exhibition is on view from May 17 through July 23, 2016 with a public reception on Saturday, May 21, from 1-4 p.m, coinciding with the opening of the Metro Expo Line in Santa Monica.

"Cendrillon" -- French for "Cinderella" -- is perhaps synonymous with fantastic transformation. Much like the iconic fairy tale, Houston-based artist Cara Barer's process is rooted in dramatic change. Using the pages of discarded novels, phone books, dictionaries -- even a Windows 95 user manual, Barer's materials are repurposed from neglect.

Pages are dyed, ruffled and carefully arranged in circular forms, their bindings elegantly twisted. Echoing spiritual mandalas or blooming flowers, these altered pages are reborn as vibrant sculptural objects before being photographed. "I arrive at some of my images by chance and others through experimentation. Without these two elements, my work would not flow easily from one idea to the next." In works like *Cendrillon*, pages are fancifully curled as brightly colored illustrations peek from the shadowed folds - a hint of its former life. Other works like *Indigo* are skillfully dyed, rich in shades of deep blue with pages opened in a seemingly swift motion, creating a cover-to-cover circle.

Transformed by color and arrangement, these books are equipped to take on new meanings as sculptural objects that are photographed and printed at a large scale - blurring the lines between object, sculpture, and photography. Through this transformation and documentation, Barer meditates on obsolescence and the relevance of libraries and the printed page in this century. "Books, physical objects and repositories of information, are being displaced by zeros and ones in a digital universe with no physicality," says Barer.

CENDRILLON records the transition of books from ubiquitous staples of information, to passing ephemera in an increasingly digitized world. Barer's works are part archival and part still life studies that question the future of the printed text.

**Cara Barer** (b. 1956) lives and works in Houston, Texas. She studied at the Art Institute of Houston, the University of Houston and the Glassell School of Art. Barer has been represented in numerous exhibitions across the U.S. and Canada. Her work has been reproduced in several publications, including *Art Made From Books: Altered, Sculpted, Carved* (Chronicle Books, 2013), *New York Magazine*, *Photonews*, and *The Houston Press*. Barer's work is featured in several private and public collections, including VISA, UCLA Special Collections, Danielle Steel, Bloomingdale's, Lehigh University, Nordstrom, Nationwide, Wells Fargo Bank and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, among others.

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Contact owner and director Laura Korman at: [laura@laurakormangallery.com](mailto:laura@laurakormangallery.com) or (310) 828-1883

For more information, please visit [laurakormangallery.com](http://laurakormangallery.com)

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Laura Korman Gallery  
2525 Michigan Avenue, Suite D-2  
Santa Monica, CA 90404  
Tel: (310) 828-1883  
Fax: (310) 828-1885  
[www.laurakormangallery.com](http://www.laurakormangallery.com)  
[info@laurakormangallery.com](mailto:info@laurakormangallery.com)