

Buchwerke: Nine Books by Barbara & Gabriele Schmidt-Heins



1/ **SCHMIDT-HEINS, Barbara.** A one-of-a-kind bookwork by Barbara Schmidt-Heins (b. 1949). [100] A4 sheets, each with a carefully executed circular tear to the center. Oblong 4to (212 x 290 mm.), orig. semi-stiff boards (a trifle sunned), orig. white tape over spine. N.p.: "Feb '72."

\$3750.00

A superb example of the archetypal bookwork created by the Schmidt-Heins twins in the 1970s: a book composed of 100 DIN A4 sheets with the same intervention repeated to each sheet. All of the leaves have circular tears that have been done by the artist.

The sisters write in a manifesto regarding their work: "The decision to break away from the individual exclusive sheet, instead: summation as principle. 100 sheets bound into a book also conceived as volume and weight. The resultant change of attitude determines how and with what the sheets are to be processed: search for methods, laying the framework of action. In each case the 100 sheets are to be subjected to the same process. The claim of the single sheet is relativized by hundredfold repetition. Result: conversion of quantity into a new quality...With the principle of repetition, individual aspects of the form and content which would otherwise remain outside the field of observation and investigative interest are stressed and emphasized."

In fine condition.

🔍 For other examples of the twins' bookworks from this period see Barbara Schmidt-Heins & Gabriele Schmidt-Heins, eds., *Buchwerke: Original-Bücher 1972 bis 1976* (Kunstraum München: 1976).



2/ **SCHMIDT-HEINS, Barbara.** An untitled unique bookwork by the celebrated German book artist. [57] halves of bound-in paper bags. Oblong 4to (183 x 283 mm.), orig. semi-stiff boards (sunned), orig. cloth tape over spine, glue- & paint-bound. N.p.: "Frühjahr '72."

\$3500.00

A beguiling example of Barbara Schmidt-Heins's bookmaking, this book consists of bound thin paper bags that have been meticulously sliced in half. In the gutter, the ends of the bags are covered in white, gray, and red paints.

In fine condition. Signed and dated on the inside of the lower cover.



3/ **SCHMIDT-HEINS, Barbara.** A unique bookwork, stamped “23. Sep. 1979 21. Dez. 1979” to the upper cover, made by Barbara Schmidt-Heins (b. 1949). [100] leaves of different stocks & colors. Large 4to (292 x 210 mm.), orig. stamped semi-stiff gray covers, glued spine. N.p.: [1979].

\$3500.00

A wonderful book that records its own creation over the course of nearly two months. The Schmidt-Heins twins frequently invoke time as a component of their books; this example by Barbara is composed of printed leaves with “Zeit” in red at the top and the following text below: “Jahrtausend / Jahrhundert / Jahrzehnt / Jahr / Monat / Woche / Tag / Stunde / Minute / Sekunde.” Whenever Schmidt-Heins worked on this book, she filled in the aforementioned information by pencil. Thick paper sheets of various colors are interspersed throughout.

In excellent condition. Signed on the inside of the lower cover.



4/ **SCHMIDT-HEINS, Gabriele.** *Unendliche Linie*. [100] leaves. Small 8vo (206 x 149 mm.), orig. thick paper covers (a little sunned) with pencil drawn-line. N.p.: "Aug '72."

\$3750.00

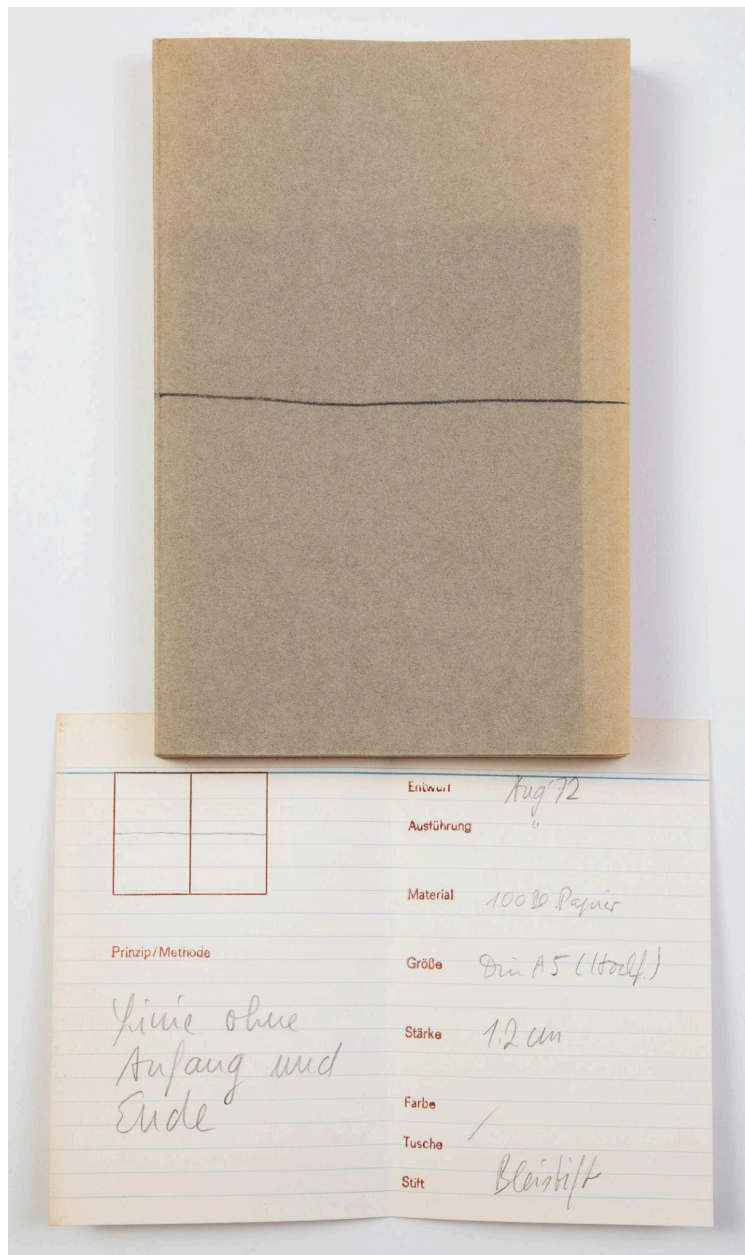
A one-of-a-kind handmade bookwork by Gabriele Schmidt-Heins (b. 1949), this example comes with a folded index card with handwritten notes on its concept and composition. The books of either Schmidt-Heins twin are rare, only a handful are held institutionally in North America. In the 1970s, the twins created a series of unique conceptual bookworks, all executed and bound by themselves. Numerous interventions — folds, tears, excisions, cuts, etc. — combined with the use of materials, some quite novel, such as ink, graphite, coffee, tape, chalk, linseed oil, water, casein, soil, rivets, shellac, shoe polish, siccative, wax, etc., etc.

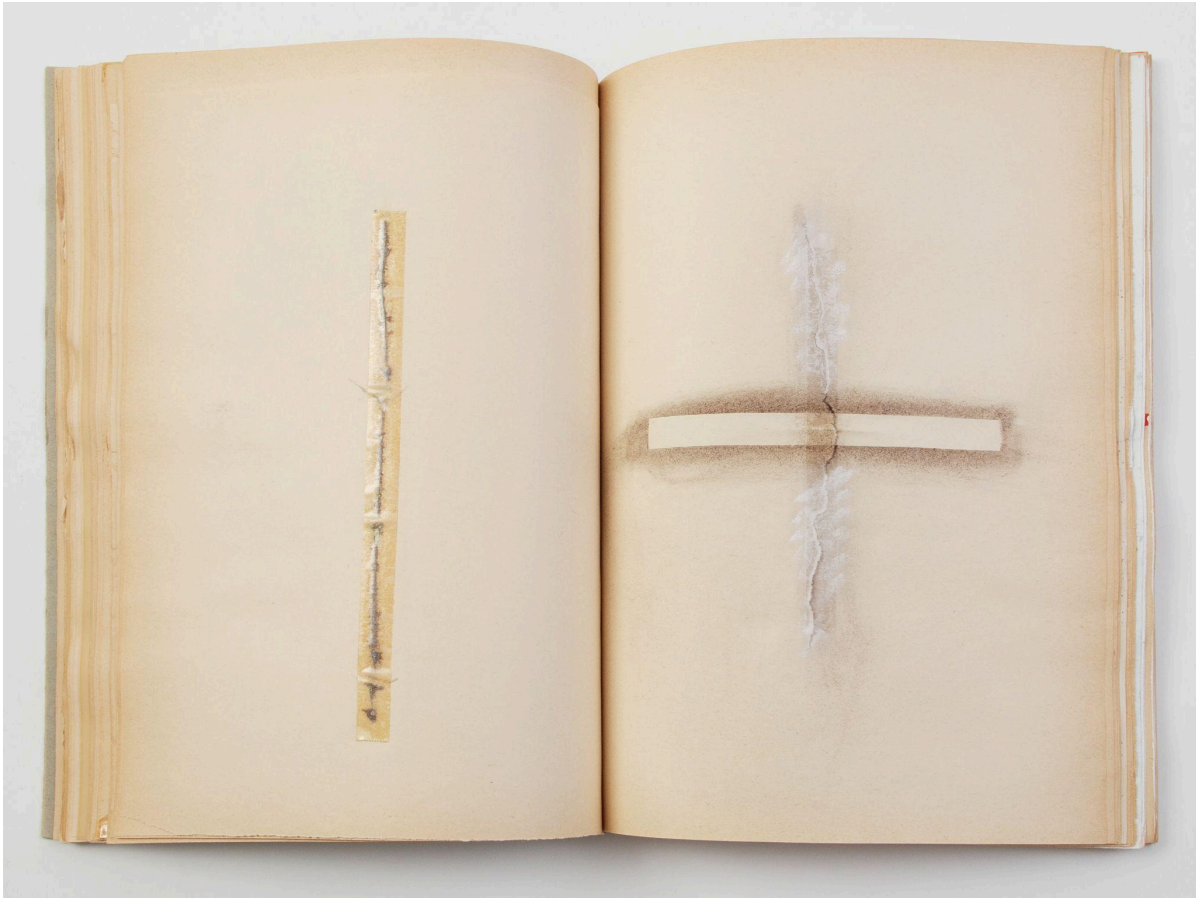
The conceit of the present work is straightforward: a bold horizontal pencil-drawn line through the entire textblock and around the covers, dividing the book in two. We have taken the title "Unendliche Linie" from a printed label pasted to the inside of the lower cover, where Schmidt-Heins has also recorded the month of completion.

From the stamped and manuscript index card: "Prinzip/Methode: Linie ohne Anfang und Ende [Line without Beginning and End] / Entwurf: Aug '72 / Ausführung: " / Material: 100 Bl[ätter]. Papier / Grösse: Din A5 (Hochf.) / Stärke: 1.2 cm / Stift: Bleistift."

In excellent condition.

☛ For other examples of the twins' bookworks from this period see Barbara Schmidt-Heins & Gabriele Schmidt-Heins, eds., *Buchwerke: Original-Bücher 1972 bis 1976* (Kunstraum München: 1976).





5/ **SCHMIDT-HEINS, Gabriele.** A bookwork by Gabriele Schmidt-Heins, replete with countless interventions & alterations to the bound-in leaves of different stocks. [110] leaves. Large 4to (293 x 211 mm.), orig. semi-stiff gray covers (sunned), glued spine. N.p.: "1972/73/75."

\$3750.00

An exceptional creation by G. Schmidt-Heins (b. 1949), in which she has transformed every leaf in surprising and occasionally disquieting ways. One finds groups of sheets that have been attached; torn and sutured back together carefully with tape; painted; stained; colored; folded, fingerprinted; delicately torn; printed; etc., etc. The artist's skill and attention to detail come through with the turn of each leaf. The present bookwork has the largest range of interventions we have seen.

Near fine; small crack to tail of spine. Signed and dated to the inside of lower cover.



6/ **SCHMIDT-HEINS, Gabriele.** One of the artist's unique bookworks, with painted, collaged, torn & re-attached leaves. [73] leaves. 4to (296 x 215 mm.), orig. green semi-stiff boards, orig. gray tape over spine. N.p.: "Nov 75."

\$3750.00

A superb book by Gabriele Schmidt-Heins (b. 1949), filled with painted and stained interventions to every page. Other pages have been carefully cut or torn — one leaf has been intentionally torn in half and then re-attached with tape. Much of the book contains boldly drawn shapes and compositions and towards the end gradually turns to subtler manipulations of the leaves.

This is a remarkable example of the twins' intense exploration of the book form, in fine condition.



7/ **SCHMIDT-HEINS, Gabriele.** A unique bookwork by Gabriele Schmidt-Heins (b. 1949). [50] French-fold leaves, with the lower gutter carefully treated with glue and triangular brown paper triangle adhered to all versos. 8vo (212 x 151 mm.), orig. semi-stiff boards (stained), orig. gray tape over spine. N.p.: "Okt. 1977."

\$3500.00

One of the Schmidt-Heins twins' archetypal bookworks, in a characteristically modest binding holding 50 folding leaves with an identical motif applied. In this case, on the lower inner corners of the rectos, a diagonal line has been drawn with a thick purple pencil; the versos bear cut-out brown triangles that are precisely placed to mirror the recto lines. The glue employed, likely casein-based, has seeped through the leaves and covers.

Near fine. Dated on the inside of the lower cover: "Okt. '77."



8/ **SCHMIDT-HEINS, Gabriele.** A unique untitled book crafted by one of Germany's great book artists. [50] folded leaves. 8vo (207 x 141 mm.), semi-stiff boards, orig. tape over spine. N.p.: "Mai '76 / überarbeitet Mai '78."

\$3000.00

A finely constructed bookwork by Gabriele Schmidt-Heins (b. 1949). She has applied a single horizontal streak of unidentified substance(s) — linseed oil, coffee, casein protein? — across the rectos and versos of every folded leaf in the book. The rest of the text block is untouched. According to a handwritten note on the inside of the lower cover, the creation of this book began in May 1976 and it was "revised" in May 1978. Since it appears there are two overlapping streaks, perhaps the first was done in 1976 and a second added two years later.

In superb condition.



9/ **SCHMIDT-HEINS, Gabriele.** A large-format bookwork by Gabriele Schmidt-Heins (b. 1949), intentionally treated with blue liquid and casein glue. [50] French fold leaves. Large square 4to (262 x 305 mm.), orig. thick boards, orig. glued spine (small crack to head). N.p.: "1976-1980."

\$3950.00

A mesmerizing book crafted by G. Schmidt-Heins, initiated in 1976 and finalized in 1980, according to a pencil note on the inside of the lower cover. The Schmidt-Heins twins frequently re-visited bookworks, in this instance perhaps Gabriele wanted to observe the ways in which the blue liquid had interacted with the paper after four years. She has applied it to all four sides of the French fold leaves, forcing the reader to open them to see what has occurred within. This results in a wave of rich blue throughout the text block.

Near fine.

