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Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to Visual Poem Eden II and Related Material

GEN MSS 1892



by Sandrine Guérin

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 1892

**CREATOR:** Arias-Misson, Alain , artist

**TITLE:** Visual Poem Eden II and Related Material

**DATES:** 2018

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.3 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** A visual poem expressed as a poetic object with sound and holographic animation as well as a proof-of-concept draft of the work created by Arias-Misson in 2018.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.eden2>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.eden2>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Alain Arias-Misson on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2019.

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### Conditions Governing Access

To see the installed artwork consult the appropriate curator.

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## Conditions Governing Access

Use of the original computer file is restricted. A reference copy may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Visual Poem Eden II and Related Material is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Alain Arias-Misson, Eden II. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Related Materials

Alain Arias-Misson Papers (GEN MSS 1514). Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Alain Arias-Misson (born 1936)

Alain Arias-Misson is a novelist, artist, and experimental poet known for his poetic objects and public poems. He was born Alain de Beeleu Misson in Brussels, Belgium, in 1936. His family immigrated to the United States at the start of World War II. They boarded the Siboney in Lisbon, Portugal, and arrived in January 1941 in New Jersey. The family returned to Belgium after the war and Arias-Misson continued moving back and forth between the United States and Europe. In 1959, he graduated with a degree in Greek and French Literature from Harvard University.

In the early 1960s Arias-Misson was involved in the nascent visual poetry movement in Spain with Joan Brossa, Ignacio Gomez de Liaño, and Herminio Molero. During a visit to Belgium in December 1967, he created his first "Public Poem" as a statement against the Vietnam War. For this work, he built giant letters wrapped in surgical tape that spelled V I E T N A M, and associates marched the human-size letters across a busy square in Brussels during the Christmas season. Arias-Misson stayed in Belgium and collaborated with concrete poet Paul De Vree and co-edited the journal *De Tafelronde* in Antwerp.

In the early 1970s, Paul De Vree and Italian artist Sarenco founded *Lotta Poetica*, a radical artists' magazine that became the international center of the *Poesia Visiva* movement. During that period, Arias-Misson collaborated with Sarenco, De Vree, Ugo Carrega, Jean-Francois Bory as well as others on wide-ranging projects that reflected their vision for a socially critical and engaged visual poetry.

Over the years, Arias-Misson developed his poetic experimentation with objects—including using laser-cutting and hologram technology for the creation of object-poems—and continued to stage public poems in urban spaces.

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## Scope and Contents

A visual poem expressed as a poetic object with sound and holographic animation as well as a proof-of-concept draft of the work created by Arias-Misson in 2018. The visual poem consists of a holographic projection of words and figures swirling around a solid block of wooden letters arranged vertically to form the word TREE within a plexiglass case. The stick-like figures are composed of minuscule verses and dance to audio of the poem, "Eden," being spoken by a woman and a man. The piece includes a ClearCube projector system.

The digital component of the work consists of one MPEG-4 file, "Eden further adjusted," containing the holographic projection that runs 3 minutes and 16 seconds in duration.

The visual poem *Eden II* was exhibited at the Beinecke Library during the "Beyond Words: Experimental Poetry and the Avant-Garde" exhibition, August-December 2019.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1 (Oversize)	Proof-of-concept Draft of Eden II <i>1.67 linear feet (1 box)</i> Proof-of-concept draft of <i>Eden II</i> created by Arias-Misson in 2018. Consists of an Apple iPad, glass stand, and a TREE reference object made of wood.	2018
b. 2 (Art)	Visual Poem Eden II <i>2.625 linear feet</i> English Poetic object with sound and holographic animation created by Arias-Misson in 2018. The visual poem consists of a holographic projection of words and figures swirling around a solid block of wooden letters arranged vertically to form the word TREE within a plexiglass case. The stick-like figures are composed of minuscule verses and dance to audio of the poem, "Eden," being spoken by a woman and a man. The piece includes a ClearCube projector system. The digital component of the work consists of one MPEG-4 file, "Eden further adjusted," containing the holographic projection that runs 3 minutes and 16 seconds in duration. The visual poem Eden II was exhibited at the Beinecke Library during the "Beyond Words: Experimental Poetry and the Avant-Garde" exhibition, August-December 2019. Arias-Misson developed his concept of Plexiglas poems in the 1970s and sketches of his ideas are in Alain Arias-Misson Papers at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.	2018

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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Belgian poetry (French) -- 20th Century  
Belgian poetry (French) -- 21st century  
Experimental poetry  
Sculpture  
Visual poetry

### **Genres / Formats**

Born digital  
Digital media  
Multimedia works

### **Occupations**

Poets -- Belgium -- 20th Century  
Poets -- Belgium -- 21st century

### **Acquired From**

Arias-Misson, Alain , bookseller