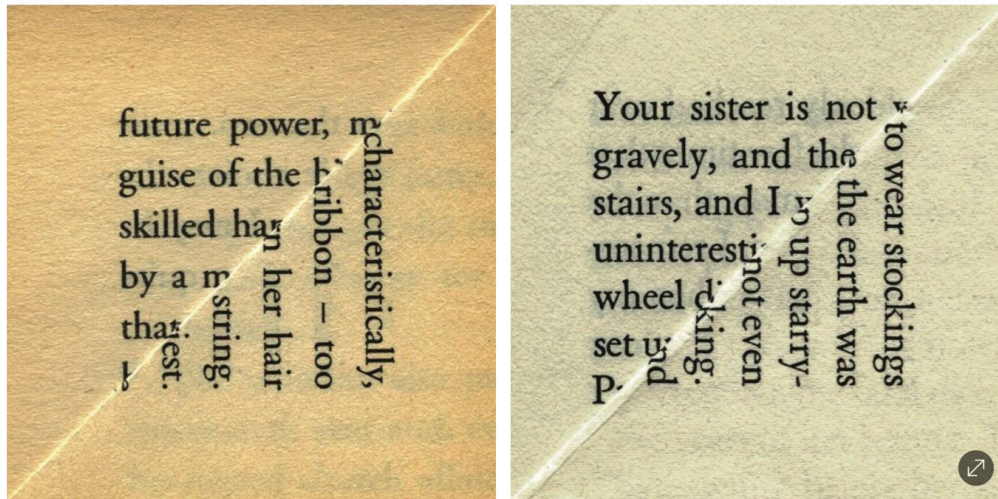


## 13 Artists Who Highlight the Power of Words

● Alina Cohen Jan 5, 2019 4:00 pm

### Erica Baum



Erica Baum, excerpts from *Dog Ear*, 2016. Courtesy of Ugly Duck Presse, Brooklyn, NY.

Erica Baum doesn't choose the words that she includes in her "Dog Ear" series, *per se*. In close-cropped photographs, the artist captures a dog-eared book's page and the one hiding behind it. The viewer sees two separate triangular sections of text, one laid atop another in a square format. Neither the photographs nor their titles disclose the source material. In *Enfold* (2013), the dog-eared page simply reads "A," while the page behind offers a kind of fragmented nonsense poem: "a wave would be hear / to enfold the note / spraying its foa / music. I gre / my thing / struck / in." Viewers must choose to read the words and guess at the larger story. Alternately, they can opt not to read at all, and simply look at each work as a group of black forms against light pages. The letters become secondary to the concept: Baum's work captures the physical evidence of reading—folded pages signify that readers have temporarily abandoned their books as they return to real life.