“DECIDEDLY SURREAL: THE BINDINGS OF MARY LOUISE REYNOLDS”
ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO
JANUARY 20 - MARCH 23
Mary Louise Reynolds, a contemporary and confidante of Marcel Duchamp and an important figure in the Surrealist movement, studied with the Parisian bookbinder Pierre Legrain in the 1920s. This led to a vast output of avant-garde bookbindings that are now in the Art Institute's collection, and really put your Kindle to shame. Man Ray, Max Ernst, Jean Cocteau, and Salvador Dalí all had their written works branded by Reynolds.

Alfred Jarry, Ubu Roi: Drame en cinq actes (King Ubu: Play in Five Acts), 1921, with binding by Mary Reynolds.

DAVID ADAMO
ALBRIGHT-KNOX ART GALLERY, BUFFALO
JANUARY 22 - JUNE 7
Sculptor David Adamo will install small sculptures at—where else?—the museum's "Gallery for Small Sculpture," in addition to large-scale, carved wood pieces, with which Adamo has carved (sorry) out a niche for himself. His past work has included wooden erasers, birds, baseball bats, and spindly columns that resemble funeral pyres. This is his first solo museum show, though he has exhibited frequently around New York City and Europe.

David Adamo, Untitled (Savoia Cookies 1a), 2013.

“CONEY ISLAND: VISIONS OF AN AMERICAN DREAMLAND, 1861–2008”
WADSWORTH ATHENEUM, HARTFORD
JANUARY 31 - MAY 31
This is, according to the museum, “the first major exhibition to use visual art as a lens to explore the lure that Coney Island exerted on American culture over a period of 150 years.” More than 140 objects will be on view, from paintings to carousel animals, to get to the heart of Coney Island’s legendary appeal. Not included in the show: all that trash-water and broken glass–filled sand.

Homer Page's gelatin silver print Coney Island (Couple on Beach), ca. 1949.