

Editor's Pick

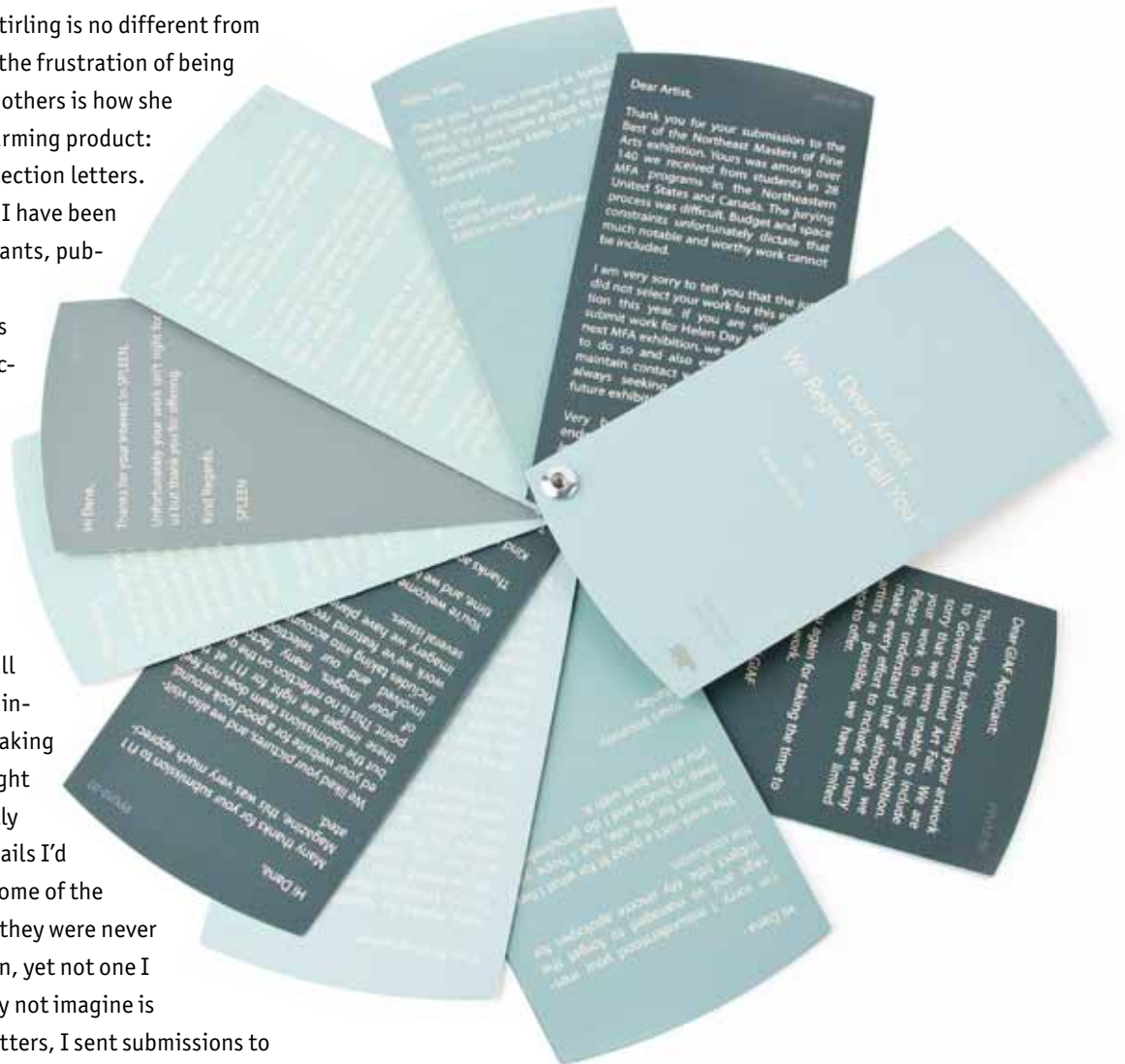
## Dana Stirling Dear Artist, We Regret to Tell You . . .

Born in 1989 in Jerusalem, Israel. Lives in New York City, USA  
<http://danastirling.com>

The New York-based photographer Dana Stirling is no different from other artists, who have also experienced the frustration of being rejected. Yet what distinguishes her from others is how she turned her frustration into a cute and charming product: a handmade book compiled of her best rejection letters. This is her story: "Over the last few years, I have been sending my work to different websites, grants, publications, competitions, exhibitions and more. Alongside some great opportunities and successes, I encountered a lot of rejection. After a period of several months of rejection after rejection, I started to doubt myself and my work. I was on the bus, on my way back home, thinking about all these months that were filled with rejections.

At some point, I spoke to my husband about my idea to make something out of all of these rejection letters that I had in my inbox. It started as kind of a joke – about making art out of rejection – and the more I thought about it, the more it made sense to actually do it. I went and looked back at all the emails I'd sent over the years – and started to flag some of the letters. Many letters I couldn't use, since they were never answered (which is also a form of rejection, yet not one I could have worked with). What people may not imagine is that, while the book contains "only" 13 letters, I sent submissions to over 300 places in the last few years.

These rejection letters are all the same; none of them is unique, special or more important than the others. The fan format allows you to look at them in no real order; you see them all at once. This book was not made out of anger towards the rejecting places, but more from a place of self-doubt and trying to reclaim my passion as an artist. After I made it, I sent it to all the places I used in my book – wanting to share this with them, to inform them and just to see their reactions. Some places never responded, but the places that did respond loved it and actually thanked me, which was kind of crazy in itself. The reaction I got from people online was, for the most part, really amazing. People have been contacting me to actually purchase it (something I wasn't expecting) and, in addition, to say that the book inspired them to carry on, to submit to more places, and that they felt that they are not alone in this situation."



Dana Stirling: Dear Artist, We Regret to Tell You . . . Behr color swatch in various shades, laser-etched text, 8 x 17 cm. Available in an edition of 150 copies. For inquiries and details, contact [dana.stirling1@gmail.com](mailto:dana.stirling1@gmail.com)