



FIONA BANNER

Turner Prize-nominated artist
with her Bedlington terrier Poppit, reading
'1334 Most Speedy Drawings' (1987) by
Dieter Roth, in her studio in Hackney

'My first encounter with Dieter Roth was when I came across this book in a tiny corridor of a bookshop in Paris called Librairie des Archives. I was drawn to the way it looked like a sketchbook, but wasn't a sketchbook. It seemed like a literal catalogue of the time it took Roth to make all those dynamic, glyph-like scribbles. The book is a work of visual poetry. I swapped it there and then for a copy of *The Nam*, the first artist's book I made, a straight trade. To me, artists' books have the same status as any other artwork, sculpture or whatever. There's a particular energy about art that is accessible; coming across Roth's work made me realise that – that sense of understanding and playing with the value that the art world places on things. To this day, publishing and making books have been important to me.'

'Fiona Banner: Font' is at Frith Street Gallery, 17-18 Golden Square, London W1 (www.frithstreetgallery.com), until 31 October. 'Scroll Down and Keep Scrolling' is at Hon Gallery, 1 Ouzelli Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham (www.hon-gallery.org), from 10 October.

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