

# MAKING A BOOK

## Getting Started in the Cleveland Institute of Art Library

### Finding inspiration

You may wish to start by looking at examples from the history of books and book arts and traditional Eastern and Western book styles.

#### ***International Crafts.*** [NK 789 .I57 1991](#)

The book arts section has some very nice photographs.

Kropper, Jean. ***Handmade books and cards.*** [Z 271 .K76 1997](#)

LaPlantz, Shereen. ***Cover to cover: creative techniques for making beautiful books, journals, and albums.*** [Z 271 .L44 1995](#)

Although both books provide instructions and diagrams, these books are better as sources of inspiration rather than technique. The photos of folding, binding, and joining possibilities are wonderful!

Olmert, Michael. ***Smithsonian book of books.*** [Z 4 .O54 1992](#)

Look here for a quick history of the book and to see excellent photographs of traditional book binding, illustration, and printing.

Vervliet, H. D. L. ***The Book through 5000 years.*** Special Collections [Z 4 .V46](#)

This is a history of the book from its earliest form (including non-western book styles) and has good full-page color photographs. This is a good place to see examples of different writing surfaces and traditional styles of binding them together to form a book.

***The two books listed below are great places to start developing your own artists' book ideas:***

Chen, Julie. ***How books work.*** Artists' Books Coll. [N 7433.4.C436 H68 2010](#)

Tetenbaum, Barbara. ***Artist's book ideation cards.*** [N 7433.3 .T48 2013](#)

### Learning about artists' books

Artists have long been associated with books, most often as illustrators, binders, printers, and papermakers. By the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, artists began to have a more direct interest in books as works of visual art in book form, and the artists' book movement started. The CIA Library has books and exhibition catalogs on artists' books, and these are a great place to learn about the history, critical issues, and variety of books made by artists. The following are useful introductions.

Drucker, Johanna. ***The Century of artists' books.*** [N 7433.3 .D78 1995](#)

Artist and art theorist Drucker has been making artists' books since the early 1970s, and she brings an important voice to the history of artists' books. She places books made by artists within the range of twentieth century art movements and discusses over 200 artists' books, with many black and white photographs.

Hubert, Renée and Judd. ***Cutting edge of reading: artists' books.***

[N 7433.3 .H83 1999](#)

This is a well-written and critical discussion of a range of issues related to the history, styles, and role of artists' books in Europe and North America, illustrated with color as well as black and white photographs.

Lauf, Cornelia and Clive Phillpot. ***Artist author: contemporary artists' books.***

[N 7433.3 .L37 1998](#)

This book offers good color photographs of selected artists' books.

Lyons, Joan. ***Artists' books: a critical anthology and sourcebook.***

[N 7433.3 .A75 1985](#)

The first major book on artists' books, this remains a solid introduction with plenty of black and white photographs of artists' books (many of which are in the CIA collection).

Wasserman, Krystyna. ***The book as art: artists' books from the National Museum of Women in the arts.*** [N 7433.35 .U6 W37 2007](#)

*Many of the artists' books included in these histories, anthologies, and exhibition catalogs are in the CIA Library's large collection of artists' books.*

## Constructing your book

Bodman, Sarah. ***Creating artists' books.*** [N 7433.3 .B62 2005](#)

Fox, Gabrielle. ***The essential guide to making handmade books.*** [Z 271 .F78 2000](#)

Holleley, Douglas. ***Digital book design and publishing.*** [Z 116 .A3 H64 2001](#)

Holleley has brought bookmaking to the digital world with his discussion of material selection, software processing, page layout, printing, and binding. His text is supported by easy-to-understand diagrams and plenty of color photographs (many of artists' books in the CIA Library's collection).

Ikegami, Kojiro. ***Japanese bookbinding: instructions from a master craftsman.***

[Z 270 .J3 I3713 1986](#)

This has good photographs and diagrams, and a detailed list of tools and instructions.

***The Penland book of handmade books: master classes in bookmaking techniques.*** [N 7433.3 .P46 2008](#)

A combination of inspiration and instruction for the intermediate to advanced book artist, this book presents 10 artists who have taught at Penland, with personal texts about their bookmaking, lovely photographs of their books, instructions for various book construction techniques, and a gallery of artists working with similar techniques.

Smith, Keith. ***Exposed spine sewings.*** [Z 271 .S6 N6 1999](#)

Keith Smith is a prolific book artist, having made 200 artists' books. [Some of his books are in our collection.] This last book in his *Non-Adhesive Binding* series contains elaborate patterns and instructions for sewing "along" the spine as well as across it. Library also has 1995 edition.

Smith, Keith. ***Non-adhesive binding: book number 128.*** [Z 271 .S6 N6 1990](#)

This is Smith's third book on bookmaking and is a "how-to" binding manual, explaining basic to elaborate binding techniques that do not require adhesives, presses, or other heavy equipment. He begins this book with the "why" of binding. The second part presents 32 binding patterns, and the third part focuses on book covers. The last section lists various binding resources. Smith's instructions are clear and accompanied by excellent drawings and photographs. This is a very useful book; if the circulating copy of the book is out, ask to see the copy in the artists' books collection.

Smith, Keith. ***1-2-&3 section sewings.*** [Z 271 .S6 N6 1995](#)

This is really volume two of Smith's *Non-Adhesive Binding*, and you will want to look at it first. *1-2-&3-Section Sewings* begins with fairly simple section sewing patterns and instructions and continues with more complicated raised support patterns for the advanced binder willing to consider what Smith calls "unorthodox" procedures.

Smith, Keith. **Quick leather bindings.** [Z 271 .S6 S6 2002](#)

Smith, Keith. **Sewn and pasted cloth and leather binding for book artists...**

[Z 271 .S6 S48 1998](#)

Smith and bookbinder Fred Jordan provide clear instruction on how to cover a book with cloth or leather without using special equipment or tools. They include over 400 detailed drawings and 60 reproductions of books by contemporary binders and book artists.

Smith, Keith. **Smith's sewing single sheets.** [Z 271 .S6 S6 2001](#)

*Part I: Preliminaries* guides the reader through basic tools, the nature and types of paper, folds, sewing preparation and knots, glue and paste, and covers. Parts II and III cover "supported" and "unsupported" sewing. The instructions are detailed and very precise and supported by excellent photographs and exceptionally clear illustrations. In *Part IV: Gallery*, photographs of the sewing techniques' possibilities are amazing and inspiring. The book concludes with a useful reference section.

Smith, Keith. **Structure of the visual book.** [Z 116 .A3 S58 1984](#)

In this book, Smith considers some of the inherent properties of a book's structure--such as traditional book forms, picture relationships and sequence, movement, and composition--using his own and other artists' books as examples. Smith will change the way you see read a book. The library has a copy in the artists' books collection as well as a circulating copy.

Smith, Keith. **Text in the book format.** [Z 116 .A3 S58 1989](#)

In this book, Smith deals with the issues of text presentation, such as the "spaces" of the written word, the printed line and page, sequential and random reading, and the uses of texts for referral, reference, and reading. His focus is on movement through reader awareness of page space and composition, and the resulting pace of page turning and reader experience. The library has a copy in the artists' books collection as well as a circulating copy.

Van Vliet, Claire and Elizabeth Steiner. **Woven and interlocking book structures.**

[Z 116 .A3 V36 2002](#)

Using Janus, Steiner, and Gefn Press books as examples, this handbook provides clear and detailed instructions for constructing accordion books, and woven and concertina structures.

Watson, Aldren. **Hand bookbinding: a manual of instruction.** [Z 271 .W36 1986](#)

The library has several binding manuals but this is one of the best—clear instructions, and good diagrams. Library also has the 1963 edition of Watson's book.

Webberley, Marilyn. **Books, boxes, & wraps.** [Z 271 .W37 1998](#)

This book is notable for the variety of ways it suggests to bind, or enclose, a book. The text is non-technical, and the illustrations are clear.

Withers, Larry. **Bookbinding.** [video] [Z 271 .W57 2007](#)

This hour long video demonstrates making a hard cover "case binding."

Zeier, Franz. **Books, boxes, and portfolios.** [Z 271 .Z4413 1990](#)

This is a very detailed, step-by-step book covering book materials, folding techniques, adhesives and glues, all manner of book forms (Eastern as well as western, traditional, modern, and specialty styles), a variety of boxes (including round ones), and portfolios. Good line drawings and color illustrations.

**If you are interested in a more detailed look at how different kinds of binding are structured, look at this example set:**

Hanmer, Karen. **Biblio tech: reverse engineering historical and modern binding structures with a focus on board attachment.** Special Collections [Z 271.H36 2013](#)

This includes a set of 12 binding models with leather and various papers and sewing supports, wooden boards, and museum board. The models remain uncovered and only partially completed so that the methods of board attachment, sewing, spine lining, and endsheet construction are visible. There is an accompanying illustrated booklet that outlines key structural features of each binding, and provides numerous references for further study.

## **Finding more information**

The library is constantly adding more books on and exhibitions catalogs of artists' books as well as books about specific artists' book presses and artists. *To find more information about the genre of artists' books and its history, look up the following SUBJECTS in the library's [online catalog](#):*

[ARTISTS' BOOKS—STUDY AND TEACHING.](#)  
[ARTISTS' BOOKS – HISTORY](#)

*For other book-related topics, look up these subject words and phrases in the online catalog.*

[ARTISTS ILLUSTRATED BOOKS](#)  
[BOOK DESIGN](#)  
[BOOK INDUSTRIES AND TRADE](#)  
[BOOKBINDING](#)  
[BOOKS - - HISTORY](#)  
[BOOKS IN ART](#)  
[CONCEPTUAL ART](#)  
[ILLUSTRATED BOOKS](#)  
[ORIGAMI](#)  
[PAPER, HANDMADE](#)  
[PAPER SCULPTURE](#)  
[PAPER WORK](#)  
[PRINTING—HISTORY](#)  
[PRINTING](#)  
[TOY AND MOVEABLE BOOKS](#)

You will also find articles on artists' books by searching these topics in [Art Source](#) (CIA access only) and [design and applied art index](#) (CIA access only). You will find some digital images of artists' books in [ARTstor](#) (CIA access only); images from the library's artists' books collection are located in [ARTstor's Shared Shelf Collections](#) (CIA access only).

These periodicals with a special focus on artists made books are available in the CIA Library:

***Book Arts Newsletter***  
***Blue Notebook***  
***Hand Papermaking***

**Hand Papermaking Newsletter**  
**JAB: Journal of Artists' books**  
**Umbrella** (also [online](#))

You might also wish to look at **Artist's book yearbook** ([N 7433.3 .A774](#)). In addition to information on individual artists and artists' books, it includes information on resources, exhibitions, book arts courses, book fairs, etc.

## **Looking at CIA's artists' books**

*The Institute's collection of artists' books, begun in 1981, is a teaching collection of over 1,600 books representing the broad range of books made by North American artists, with examples from South and Central America, Western Europe, and Asia. These books date from the 1960s to the present including some rare and historically important "classics" of this genre.*

*The Library's artists' books collection requires special care and is shelved in a secure area. Selections from the collection are displayed in the library several times during the year. To find out what artists' books are in this special collection, use the special [artists' books browse feature](#). You may request individual artists' books to look at in the library; ask the staff for help.*

## **Connecting with artists' books community**

These websites are also useful:

- There are many online images of artists' books, such as these online collections
  - [Otis College of Art Library's Artists' Books Collection](#)
  - [School of the Art Institute of Chicago Library's Joan Flasch Collection](#)
  - [University of Wisconsin-Madison's Kohler Library](#)
- Selected book dealers with online images and book descriptions
  - [Art Metropole](#)
  - [Printed Matter](#)
  - [Vamp & Tramp Booksellers](#)
  - [Visual Studies Workshop](#)
  - [Women's Studio Workshop](#)
- Some useful websites
  - [Books Arts Web](#)
  - [JAB: Journal of Artists' Books](#) (related links section has a wealth of useful information)
  - [Artists' books Online](#) (founded under the direction of book artists and theorist Johanna Drucker, this site is online repository of facsimiles, metadata, and criticism)

**STILL NEED HELP? Ask the library staff.**

