

**Part One****Making Books {exploring the book form}**

Books are collections of things bound together in a very specific sequence.

Most of us think of books as words and pictures on paper to be read in a specific order. Books present an idea, or a collection of facts or fictions. Books are organized so the reader has a certain interactive experience with the information (words/pictures/collections of things) presented usually in some narrative form. We have come to trust books as authoritative objects, since (up until very recently) it was difficult to produce a book without a press, bindery and/or publisher to distribute. Page layout software such as Quark and InDesign, and recent self-publishing online tools along with the development of digital presses bring single book publishing to the masses.

This assignment challenges you to create a book based on a series of things you are asked to collect.

**Your job as an artist** is to find an interesting collection of things and then to figure out a creative way to organize and present them together using the form of the book.

**Your job as a designer** is to use the mac lab studios and software such as Quark, In-Design, Photoshop and Illustrator to make the book.

**Gleaning Stuff Due 4/7**

All students involved in this project must cull their stuff from very specific areas. Doing so adds a consistent element to project and creates an overall theme.

**Gathering**

You must find things that can either be scanned in our lab, or photographed digitally. The scans or digital images must be hi-resolution (*at least 300ppi, and minimum of 6" in either direction height or width*).

You will find one representative item in the following areas:

The only rule is that the item has to be able to be scanned or digitally photographed.

1. Under your bed.
2. In your mailbox
3. From the trash.
4. From a library.
5. From a newspaper.
6. From the Supermarket.
7. From a friend.
8. In your glove compartment.
9. Posted on a Bulletin Board.
10. From your past.

Scan each item at 300ppi at 6" minimum size. This means if your item is only 3" x 3", you will need to scan at 600ppi in order to be able to enlarge to 6".

**Part Two****Thinking About Your Collection.**

How does the stuff you gathered relate or how is it unrelated. Your job as an artist is to develop an idea of how to organize this collection into a book. Remember that a book can be a metaphor for an idea. How you organize the elements of the book are up to you. What you are making here is an artist's book. An artist's book is not a traditional book but rather an artwork in the form of a book. It uses the book as a metaphor or medium to express an idea. You can add text if you like, but the only illustrative item you can use is the 10 items you've scanned.

A good working definition of artist's books:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artist's\\_book](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artist's_book)

And, a good visual collection:  
<http://content.otis.edu/collections/artistsbooks.htm>

Here's the best artist's book store, in NYC. Check it out if you are going to the Spring NYC trip.  
<http://printedmatter.org/>

**Artist's Book Proposal Due 4/14**

So, for **Part Two**, have a good idea in **proposal form**, of what you intend to do. This should be written out formally with sketches and a blank book dummy you create from paper. The proposal must address these questions:

1. What is this book about ?
2. How will I produce it ?
3. What do I need to produce it ?
4. How will it be bound together ?

Here's a simple binding technique we'll use.