

Create with Blaffer: Artist Books

Lesson Plan Objective:

We will be exploring different formats in which an artist book can be created through the recollection of memory. This activity is inspired by artist Mel Chin's rendering of a proposed work, *State of Heaven* (1990), featured in the catalogue accompanying, *Mel Chin: Re-Match*, Chin's major retrospective exhibited at Blaffer Art Museum in 2015.

Approximate Time:
30 minutes

Skill Level:
Difficult

Parental Supervision:
Required



Image: *Funk and Wag from A to Z*

Art Materials:

- Stapler
- Non-toxic glue
- One or more varied sheets of preferred paper
- Collage materials
- Found materials
- Dyeing tools
- Drawing and coloring tools of choice
- Scissors

Instructions & Extension:

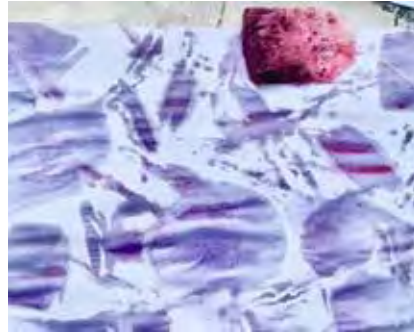
1. Think about a significant memory you have experienced in relation to art. What makes this specific instance compelling? How does this memory make you feel? In what setting was the artwork situated (public setting, museum or gallery setting, etc.)?
2. Using the chosen art materials, compose visual and graphic elements on each page into a collage that represents your memory.
3. Add text, structure, and texture to the pages by manipulating them to your preference. This can include cutting, crumpling, and dyeing the paper.
4. Once the artist book's content is complete bind as desired.
5. **Extension:** Add a journal entry to your book. Describe what motivated you to make your work, as shown in the following excerpt by Museum Security Coordinator and contributor Layla Bispo:

"Since 'The State of Heaven' is about ozone depletion, I chose to organize my book's narrative by presenting a 'depletion' of color and structure. Once the center fold of the book has been opened, the other half of the narrative is an opposing reflection of this 'depletion' of colors; rather, the dark & singed pages proceed the blue tea-stained ones in the second half. This progression symbolizes the depletion of the ozone/our natural resources while suggesting the possibility of what the effects would look like if undone/viewed in reverse."

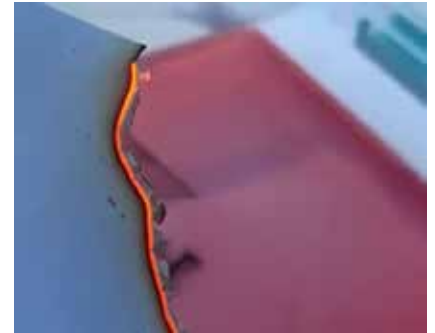
Instruction Walkthrough: Artist Books



Step 1: Paper soaking in tea.



Step 2: Paper stained with a used teabag.



Step 3: Texturing paper by burning edges, crumpling, and folding.



Step 4: Manipulated paper ready to assemble into book.



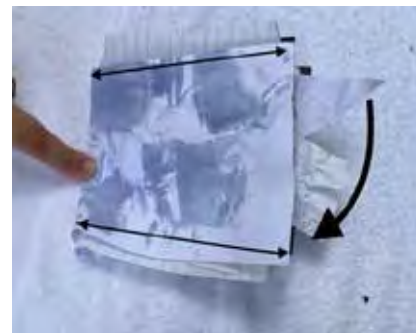
Step 5: Stack papers in thematic layers and materials to create a narrative.



Step 6: Carefully hold materials and neatly fold in half.



Step 7: Press down firmly on the book's spine.



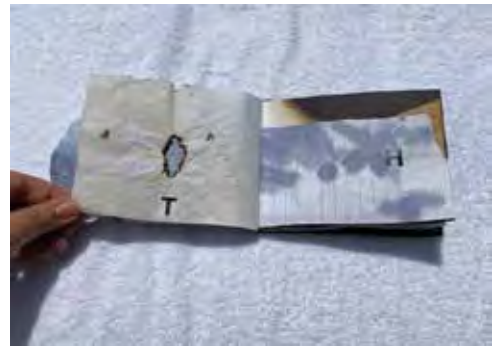
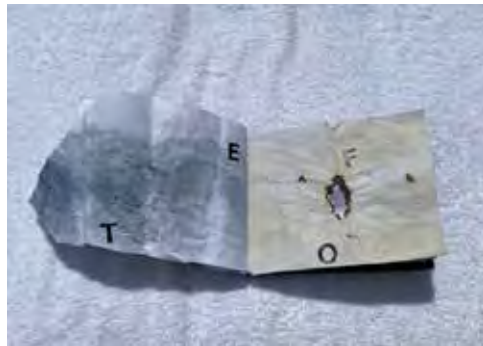
Step 8: Adjust pages as desired and trim excess material off edges.

Visual Sample: Artist Books

Pages 1-3



Pages 4-7



Pages 8-11



Pages 12-15

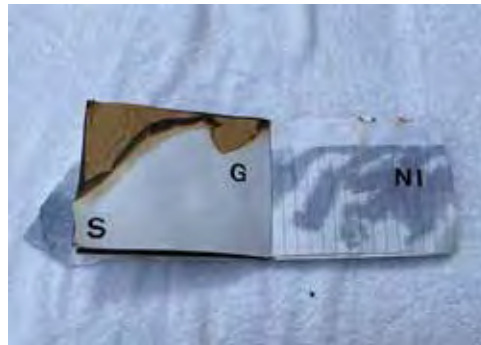


Visual Sample: Artist Books

Pages 16-19



Pages 20-23



Pages 24-27



Page 28

