

December Family First Sunday: Book-Making Activity



Today we will be exploring book making! We will be looking at Edward Ruscha's accordion-style book, *Every Building on Sunset Strip*. Ruscha used interesting methods to take his photos. For this book, he got into his pickup truck and slowly drove down Sunset Strip, a popular site for cruising and well known for its nightlife. To take the photographs, he drove with a camera in the bed of his truck which took shots at different times. His accordion book is 25 feet long when fully opened!

Our do-it-yourself project is inspired by Ruscha's work from the UCR ARTS' collection. After learning about the history of books and book

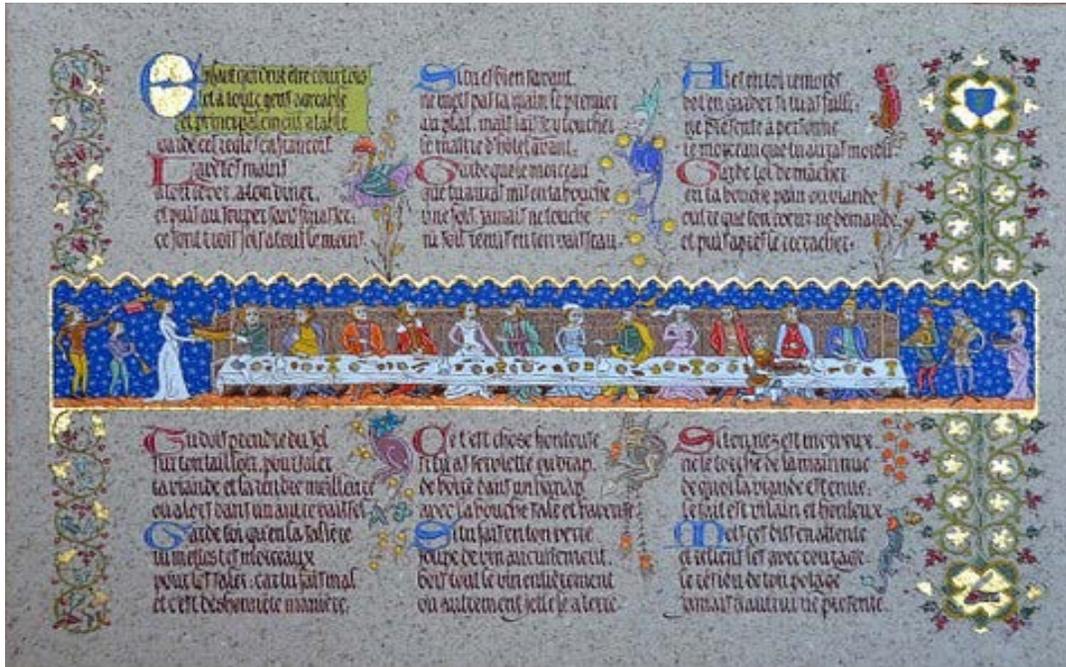
making, you can make your very own books featuring photos or drawings of your important memories or favorite places by following the instructions below!

The History of Books and Bookmaking:

From papyrus scrolls to the e-book, books and book making dates back thousands of years. Before books, people told stories. Telling stories became an important part of life for early humans. Stories had many uses—they could teach lessons, entertain, they could even affect people emotionally. The earliest examples of writings appeared in the Middle East. These writings were made by pressing reeds into wet clay slabs to form glyphs. These early writings acted as important documents which detailed exchanges, lists, items, etc.



The Ancient Egyptians were the first to discover paper. They did this by weaving together stems of papyrus and pounding them flat. This created small pages which, when glued together, formed a scroll.



In the Middle Ages, people who could write and draw were paid to create beautiful hand-drawn illustrations in books. These colorful illustrations were called “illuminated manuscripts” and were treasured among book collectors.





These manuscripts held important information and stories. However, because they were hand-made, they took a long time to make. Thus, books were very rare and treasured for much of their history. This all changed in 1454 when a German man named Johannes Gutenberg built the first printing press. This made books much more available as it was easier to make multiple copies of a single text.



Following the printing press, companies that specialized in printing books emerged called Publishers. These companies helped make books even more accessible by mass printing different books and stories for everyone to purchase and read. Today, many books can be found online through different apps.

Now that we've discussed the history of books, let's talk briefly about the art of bookmaking. Book binding is an art that can take many forms. Some artists create sculptures or show off their artwork by making and binding their own books. There are many techniques you can use to make books. There's the perfect or standard method, the sewn section method, wire binding, etc. For this project we will focus on the accordion technique as seen in the image below.



Supplies for the Ruscha-Inspired Book:

- Printed pictures of your favorite memories OR a pen and your imagination
- Colored cardstock
- School glue
- Cup
- Paint brush
- Glitter, rhinestones, stickers, any decoration of your choice!

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- A hole puncher
- Twine or string

Instructions:

1) Print out some of your favorite pictures, these could be moments in time or special places (make sure your pictures are a similar size). If you do not have access to a printer, feel free to use your imagination and draw some pictures of your favorite memories and/or places with a black pen.

2) Cut these pictures out and glue them onto pieces of colored cardstock. The cardstock should be a little bigger than your photos/pictures, this will create a colorful border that will frame your 'memories'. Feel free to use colors that express important ideas or emotions!



3) Pour some school glue into your cup. Take a paint brush and carefully glue your pictures onto your cardstock. Once they've dried, lay your framed pictures facedown and closely together.



4) On small scraps of paper, write some poetic descriptions of each photo. "A day at the beach"; "A very rainy day"; "Lost in the City of Angels" are some good examples.



5) Glue these descriptions on the back of your photos, these will create the inside contents of your book once it's finished.





6) Decorate your book as you see fit, you can add rhinestones, stickers, whatever makes your memory book come to life!





7) Once you've finished decorating and labelling your memories, lay them face down. Make sure the edges are touching together and that they are lined up top to bottom. Punch two holes along the side of the cardstock, one in the upper corner and one in the lower corner. Tie a piece of string into the holes to bind your pictures together. Flip them over to make sure everything is in the right place. You should have all your photos tied together in a row.







8) Fold up the pages along the places where you strung each page. These folds will create the "accordion" look of your book.





9) Stand back and admire your very own memory book!

Works Cited

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