

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

LESSON PLAN

THREE-PART ART: Pre-Visit Art Lesson

PROJECT TITLE: What Makes a Book a Book?

CANNON ART GALLERY EXHIBIT AND THEME: *Reimagined: The Artist's Book*

AGE RANGE: Grades 1-5

PROJECT INTRODUCTION:

Students will discuss what makes a book a traditional book and what makes a book an Artist's Book. Taking inspiration from the exhibit, *Reimagined: The Artist's Book*, students will design and draw their own unique version of a book cover.

CANNON ART GALLERY EXHIBIT: *Reimagined: The Artist's Book*

What do you think happens when the worlds of art and books come together? This is what the Cannon Art Gallery's current exhibit, *Reimagined: The Artist's Book* is all about. The artists in this exhibit took printed material, like books, and altered them to create new and unique works of art. Often using unconventional materials, the artists in the exhibition explored changing book structures into sculpture and sculptural objects whose only tie to books might be the inclusion of words.



ARTIST: Rhiannon Alpers

Saying Goodbye, 2010

raw silk fabric, hand lettering, fox bones, found collage materials, artificial sinew, (box: silk book cloth and raw silk, paper, ultra suede)

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ARTIST: Viviana Lombrozo

Legacies to Carry On, 2010

wood, paper, fabric

PROMPT QUESTIONS TO BE USED WITH POWERPOINT IMAGE SLIDESHOW:

1. Observe the artworks for a few minutes. The artists who created these artworks think of them as “artist books” ... do you agree or disagree? Explain.
2. Do these artist books tell a story? What story do you think they tell?
3. Do books always have to tell a story? Do books need to have words to tell a story?
4. Imagine that you are writing a book. What story would you like to tell? What kinds of characters would your story have? What could be the title of your book?
5. Are books always the same shape? Describe some book shapes that you have seen?

VOCABULARY:

Artist Books: a medium of artistic expression that uses the form or function of “book” as inspiration

Alter: change or cause to change in character or composition, typically in a comparatively small but significant way

Unconventional: being out of the ordinary

MATERIALS NEEDED FROM SCHOOL:

- Copy paper
- Pencil
- Optional: Colored pencils, crayons, or markers

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DESIGNING YOUR BOOK COVER (step by step):

Step 1:

Brainstorm a class list of different book shapes. Examples: A traditional hardcover book that is square or rectangular, a scroll, an accordion book, a tablet, etc. See how many different shapes and styles you can come up with.

Step 2:

Decide what your book is going to look like. What shape will your book have? What kind of material do you imagine your book to be made of? Using a pencil, sketch out your design on your paper, using the full page. Be as creative as you'd like. Remember, when sketching out ideas, use your pencil lightly, that way you can easily erase any marks that you don't need.

Step 3:

Decide on the title of your book and add it to the book cover. Consider how writing the title in a different style can change the design. Experiment with different lettering: bubble letters, block letters, cursive, etc. Add an author's name if you'd like. Optional: Use classroom supplies to color in your book cover.

Step 4:

Share with your class the book cover that you created. Note how many different styles of books were created. Optional: Write your story! Now that you have a book cover and a title, use that as inspiration to finish writing the story.

POST PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. What were some surprising book shapes that were listed?
2. What were some of your favorite book shapes?
3. Which shape did you decide on? Did this book shape inspire your book title? Explain.
4. Optional: Did the book cover shape inspire your story? Explain.

ART EXAMPLE PHOTOS:

