

# VOLUMINOUS ART

Treasures from San Diego's University Libraries

MAR 10 2018

MINGEI INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM

SEP 03 2018

**ON VIEW:** March 10, 2018 — September 3, 2018

## Exhibition Resource Guide

The magic of books is undeniable. Readers are able to simply flip the pages to unlock their next adventure. The best books challenge preconceived notions and open the mind. They paint a picture of completely different worlds – whether it be tales you've never dreamt of or history from long ago. This exhibition delves into the magic by featuring books from the special collections libraries of UC San Diego, University of San Diego and San Diego State University. There are over 70 books on view—a sampling that reveals centuries-old practices of book design, typography, printing and binding.

## EXHIBITION THEMES

### The Craft and Artistry of Book Making

Books can be made of various materials or with a single sheet of paper. This exhibition will explore the range of techniques involved in building a book as well as the visual functional artistry of books.

### University Libraries

This exhibition shines a spotlight on three local university libraries, UC San Diego, University of San Diego, and San Diego State University, and highlights their special collections.

*VOLUMINOUS ART* calls attention to the intersections of literature, science and visual art in



books, as well as the rich resources that are available in person and online. Approximately 25 volumes from each library collection will be on display.

### **Works New and Old**

People have made and read books for centuries. This exhibition highlights works as old as a 1297 manuscript on the art and science of spelling as well as print classics such as the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, an early edition of *Moby Dick*, and one of Theodore Geisel's Dr. Seuss books. Additionally, contemporary artist books, comics and children's literature will be on display. Together, the new and old works tell a compelling story about the evolution of this important art form.

### **The Anatomy of a Book**

The physical anatomy of a book includes a spine, tail, gutter, head, fore-edge, and text block. Inside, a book is typically comprised of a title page, copyright page, glossary and index. This exhibition will demystify the parts of a book for easy identification and use.

### **Components of a Story**

Books filled with stories share the same basic components: characters, setting, plot, conflict, and resolution. This exhibition includes familiar stories such as *Moby Dick*, *the Wind in the Willows*, *Leaves of Grass*, *500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins* and many more. Students will not only explore the visual aesthetics of these books, but also the story arcs within them.

## **VOCABULARY**

**Artist Books** - works of art that utilize the form of the book

**Author** - the writer of a book

**Bookbinding** - the work of fastening books together and putting covers on them

**Book Plate** - a decorative label stuck in the front of a book, bearing the name of the book's owner

**Card Catalog** - file of cards listing the items in the collection of a library

**Glossary** - an alphabetical list of terms or words found in or relating to a specific subject, text, or dialect, with explanation

**Gutter** - the inner margin of the leaves of a bound book

**Head** - Top edge of a book

**Illustration** - Decoration, interpretation or visual explanation of a text, concept or process

**Index** - an alphabetical list of names, subjects, etc., with references to the pages where they occur, typically found at the end of a book

**Manuscript** - Book, document, or piece of music written by hand rather than typed or printed

**Picture Book** - Book containing many illustrations, especially one for children

**Spine** - Back edge of a book, sewn or glued

**Story Arc** - the overall shape of rising and falling tension or emotion in a story

**Tail** - Bottom edge of a book

**Title Page** - a page at the beginning of a book giving its title, author and publisher

**Volume** - a book forming part of a work or series

### **STUDENTS WILL EXPLORE**

- The dual nature of books as a visual art form and functional object
- Book making techniques, materials and designs connected to specific time periods and places
- The little-known resources of local university libraries
- The physical anatomy of a book and its contents
- Connections between the tools and processes used by book artists, writers and makers

### **RESOURCES**

Brooklyn Artist Alliance - <https://brooklyn.org/category/education/>

Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art - <https://www.carlemuseum.org/>



**Hildegard von Bingen (b. 1098-1179)**  
***Sanctae Hildegardis Circulus Sapientiae (Circle of Wisdom Songs of Saint Hildegard)***, 2001  
 Janus Press Collection, Courtesy of Special Collections & University Archives, San Diego State University Library & Information Access



**Maureen Cummins**  
***Checkbook***, 1996  
 Collection of University of San Diego, Helen K. and James S. Copley Library



**Alicia McKim**  
***Oh Give Me a Home (Home on the Range)***  
 Denver CO: Rattlesnake Press, 1995  
 Collection of University of San Diego, Helen K. and James S. Copley Library



**Judy Fairdough Sgantas**  
***ABC of Bugs and Plants in a Northern Garden***, 2012  
 Janus Press Collection, Courtesy of Special Collections & University Archives, San Diego State University Library & Information Access

## HANDS-ON BOOK BINDING ACTIVITY: CREATE YOUR OWN PAMPHLET STITCH

### Materials

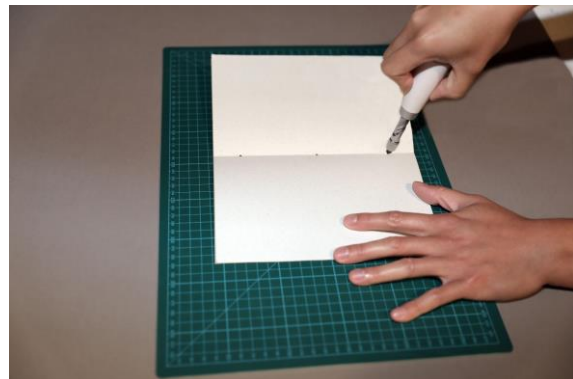
- Several sheets of 8.5" x 11" paper
- 1 sheet of 8.5" x 11" cardstock
- Needle and Thread
- Scissors
- Cutting Mat
- Bone Folder - optional

### Optional materials for hole punching:

- Screw Punch (pictured)
- Awl
- Nail and Hammer
- Utility Knife

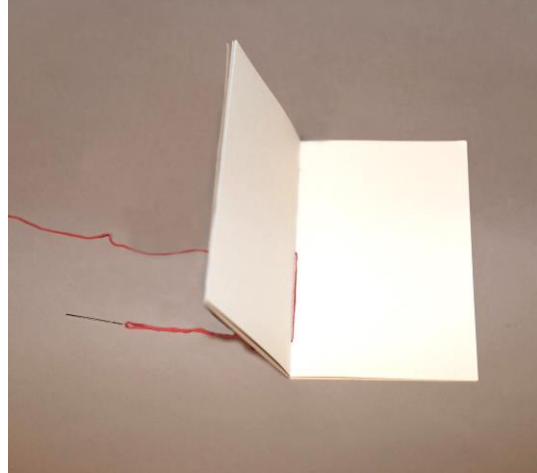


### DIRECTIONS

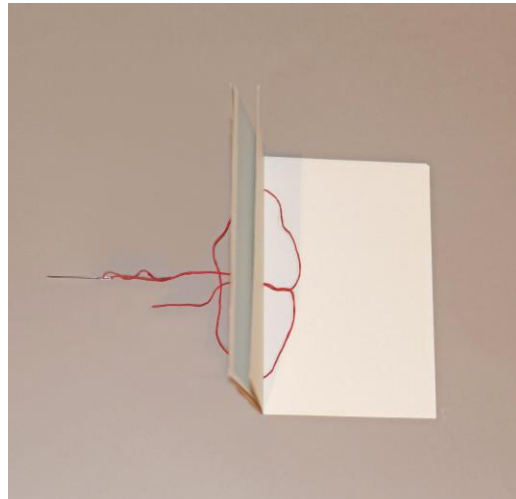
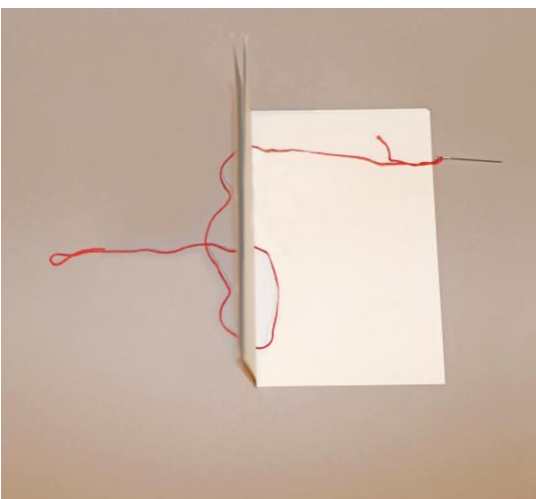


1. Fold the paper and cardstock in half lengthwise, using the bone folder to make a crease.
2. On the inside of the booklet, mark three points along the middle crease. First measure 1 inch from the top and bottom of the page to mark the top and bottom holes. Then measure to find the center between the top and bottom holes and mark a point for the middle hole. With the paper on the cutting mat, use a screw punch to create three holes. If you're using a utility knife, measure and mark along the front cover of the folded booklet. Make small cuts along the fold.

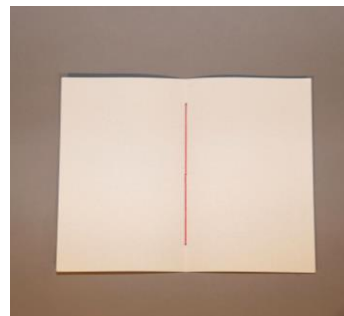
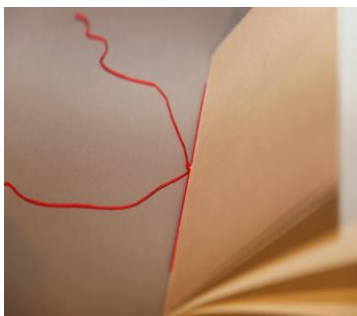




3. Cut the string to about 15 inches long. Thread your needle but don't knot the end of the string. From the outside of the booklet, push the needle through the middle hole.
4. From the inside, push the needle through the bottom hole.



5. From the outside, push the needle through the top hole, skipping the middle hole.
6. From the inside, push the needle through the middle hole.
7. Pull the string tight and tie the two ends in a tight knot. Trim the excess string. There should be a clean line in the center of the book.



## IN PREPARATION FOR YOUR VISIT

Schedule a Museum visit and Docent-led tour through the Education Department. Mingei offers free admission for all K-12<sup>th</sup> grade and college groups and transportation reimbursements for needs-based schools.

**Email:** [jowens@mingei.org](mailto:jowens@mingei.org)

**Call:** 619-704-7507

**Complete an online tour request form:** [www.mingei.org/education/museum-tour-request](http://www.mingei.org/education/museum-tour-request)

- Review the information in this hand-out with your students; build their knowledge, excitement and confidence before they arrive.
- Discuss museum etiquette and review the Tour Guidelines document that will be sent to you when your tour is confirmed.
- Explain to students that a Museum Docent will guide them through the exhibition. Explain that a Docent is a knowledgeable Museum-trained volunteer who will share valuable information with them.
- Explain that Mingei International is a museum of folk art, craft and design that shows work from all over the world, and that “*mingei*” is a Japanese word that means “art of the people.”

