

“Contemplations” A Missouri Fiber Artists Book Project Description

Participating MoFA member artists will create their own original handmade book using fiber/textile techniques and/or materials of their own choosing, to be shown in an online group exhibition. The theme, “Contemplations” is open to each artist's personal interpretation. A series of companion, online workshops taught by Jennifer Reis, will guide us through the challenge. You'll learn a fresh approach to writing an artist statement, along with proven methods for critiquing, photographing your art, and giving an artist presentation. Those that are already familiar with these techniques will find this approach revitalizing. Session meetings will be conducted through the Zoom platform.

An introductory examination & analysis of contemporary artists' handmade books will be included, along with topics for professional growth. Member artists will be randomly paired during the process, allowing opportunities to form conducive relationships for shared reflection. While you will be making your artwork individually, you will be paired for the professional development sessions and exercises. Paired interactions will give you a supportive atmosphere to practice these techniques. Pairs will interact to practice self-critique and critiquing methods, fostering growth. Contact your partner by phone, email, Facetime, Zoom or any other form of communication that you desire. Discussions and exercises will improve written and verbal communication skills. As a result, artists will gain confidence and comfort at communicating at exhibits and artists' talks that may be scheduled in future.

MoFA is a diverse group of fiber artists working in numerous media. Because of this, there is not a “how to make a book” workshop included. We do have a Pinterest board with inspirational links and plenty of “how to” links as far as book making is concerned. We have a wide open interpretation of what constitutes a book as an art form. Consider creating altered books, sculptural books, book objects, or wall hung pieces. We encourage MoFA artists to use fiber techniques and materials to create an original book. It might be an account of an event or experiences, feelings, or thoughts. The content could be purely visual, or could include text; it may be a narrative and/or have consecutive content or not. It's up to you to interpret the theme “Contemplations” along with the form your book might take. It will be exciting to see how each member approaches the challenge in their unique way.

Goals:

- 1) Participants will individually produce an original book for exhibit, using fiber techniques/materials of their own choosing.
- 2) Participants will gain exposure and deeper understanding of handmade book art by contemporary artists.
- 3) Randomly paired artists will develop conducive relationships for shared reflection
- 4) Participants will increase artist communication skills (verbal and written), and learn thoughtful and effective critique methods

Sessions:

All sessions conducted through Zoom. Sessions will be recorded and available for playback.

Intro Session Emailed Mid December : (Taught by Becky Stevens and Mary Elmusa) A presentation of a variety of book arts by contemporary artists. The purpose of this Intro session is to inspire, and also to introduce and demonstrate a proven critique method, which can be used to thoughtfully examine artists' work. Following this intro session, each participant will find an artist's work in book media and complete a 4-step critique to practice and share with their partner.

Session 1 (Jan 8): Crafting an Art Statement (individual and peer to peer, breakout rooms) (1 hr)

- Individual work + artist pairing to work together between sessions.

Session 2 (Feb 19): Art Statement Reveal + Q&A (breakout rooms) (1-2 hrs)

- Individual work + artist pairing to work together between sessions.

Session 3 (Mar 19): Photographing Art, Artist Presentations 101, Leveraging Social Media as an Artist, Prepping for Final Session

- Work + artist pairing to work together between sessions.

Session 4 (Apr 9): Artist Book Presentations (if we have 50 people - 2-4 breakout rooms) (3 hrs)

May 15, 2022 - Due date for photos & written information for online exhibit on MoFA's website and Instagram page.

All questions and communications will be handled through email:

mofamemberchallenge@gmail.com