Teaching Book Arts at Syracuse University Libraries

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Students Across Disciplines
Approaches

Pamphlet Stitch

Three-hole pamphlet stitch

Five-hole pamphlet stitch
Value Added
ASSIGNMENT 2

Class Exhibition in Special Collections Research Center
Syracuse University Library

This class will be exhibiting works by students in the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC), during the second half of the semester. From among the structures learned in class (or with instructor’s approval an alternative one), select one design to complete work around that structure. Your work will be paired with an example of that work from the SCRC’s collections that YOU have identified. All works will be photographed and the exhibition mounted on the SCRC’s website.

TASKS:

- Reviewing your notes from Class 2 (Visit to SCRC) select a work that represents the structure and concept you will explore in your work.
- Create a complete book based on that structure.
  - Remember that you are creating an exhibition quality work. Neatness and precision of work are imperative. Materials and structure must work together.
- Write:
  - A concise statement describing the work selected from SCRC’s collections, why you selected it, and your connection to it.
  - A concise artist’s statement introducing yourself, your area(s) of interest, and what attracted you to the work.
- Statements must fit on one page, 8.5” x 11”, 1” margins, single-spaced 12pt Times Roman font. Statements must be submitted as hard-copy and via email to <pverheyen@syr.edu>. All statements must be proofed for content.
- Remember, you never get a second chance to make a first impression.

THINGS FROM ASSIGNMENT 1 TO KEEP IN MIND:

- How does the binding I choose relate to the subject? Historically, regionally, traditionally...
- How does the size (or difficulty) of viewing reveal or hide my subject matter? Is the viewer gaining full access to the book and if not, why?
- How is the size of my book effect the viewer’s reaction to the content? Does it need to be gigantic or modest to truly tell the story well?
- How do the materials I have chosen relate to the content? Is the cover material appropriate for the subject matter? Is the text paper? The endpapers (if any)?
- How does the design (or difficulty) of my book effect the content? Is the book a work of art? How is it addressing? Is the text paper? The endpapers (if any)?
- How does my book’s structure and feel of the book marry with the overall content? Does the form enhance the content?
Success and Impact

- Students gained exposure to an interdisciplinary art form
- Students gained experience working with community groups
- Students gained experience with the business of art
- Students gained hands-on experience developing skills related to working with books for art and conservation
- Former students are working and teaching in book arts and conservation
Links to Mentioned Resources

- **Book arts Libguide:**
  - [http://researchguides.library.syr.edu/bookarts](http://researchguides.library.syr.edu/bookarts)

- **Semester length book arts class:**

- **Book Arts Web:**
  - [http://www.philobiblon.com](http://www.philobiblon.com)

- **College Book Art Association**
  - [http://www.collegebookart.org](http://www.collegebookart.org)