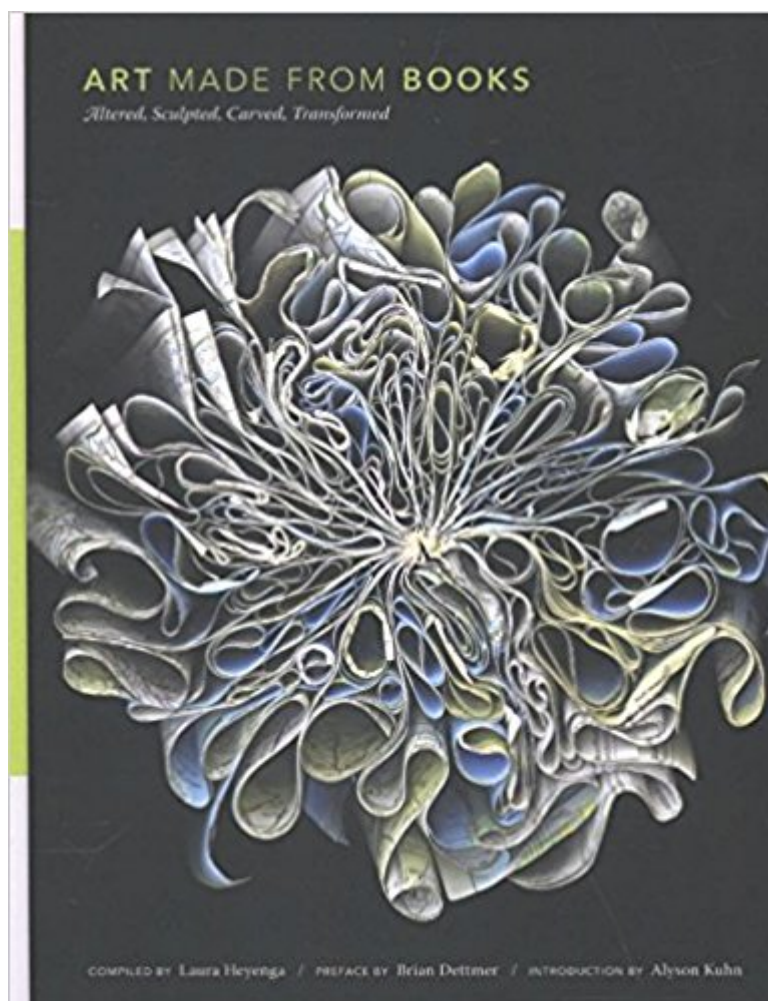


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# Art Made From Books: Altered, Sculpted, Carved, Transformed



## Synopsis

Artists around the world have lately been turning to their bookshelves for more than just a good read, opting to cut, paint, carve, stitch or otherwise transform the printed page into whole new beautiful, thought-provoking works of art. *Art Made from Books* is the definitive guide to this compelling art form, showcasing groundbreaking work by today's most showstopping practitioners. From Su Blackwell's whimsical pop-up landscapes to the stacked-book sculptures of Kylie Stillman, each portfolio celebrates the incredible creative diversity of the medium. A preface by pioneering artist Brian Dettmer and an introduction by design critic Alyson Kuhn round out the collection. Presented in an unusual, tactile package with an exposed spine, this is an essential addition to the libraries of book lovers and art aficionados.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The 27 visual artists whose portfolios comprise this exciting collection each work with printed books as their medium. They carve, paint, and repurpose pulp to striking effect, building startling secondary evocations from their material's primary narratives. Amid the rush toward e-books, this volume amounts to a wild celebration of the printed, illustrated, and bound form. Subject matter and tone range widely, from Alex Queral's cheerful, uncannily accurate bas-relief style portraits of Don Knotts, David Bowie, Mr. Bean, and others X-Acto-knifed from phone books, to the more free-form, abstract pulpy sculptures that Jacqueline Rush Lee concocts. Several artists use print's built-in fairytale potency to create charming, fanciful evocations of the worlds a book

contains. Brian Dettmer exposes and celebrates the graphics contained in books through painstakingly precise, layer-by-layer excavation. And in a glorious nod to pop-up books, Su Blackwell's work rises from the page to richly evoke scenes from folklore. The book itself furthers the sense of liberation and playfulness by exposing its own spine. The central message is uplifting and joyous—that a book is a uniquely precious, infinitely malleable treasure chest in the hands of an ambitious artist. With a solid preface by Dettmer and a helpful introduction by Alyson Kuhn, Heyenga (editor of Paper Cutting) presents a magical collection of paper wonders. 200 photos. (Sept.)

"I was instantly taken with *Art Made from Books: Altered, Sculpted, Carved, Transformed* - a compendium of extraordinary artworks from the around the world.... Sensual, rugged, breathtakingly intricate, ranging from "literary jewelry" to paperback chess sets to giant area rugs woven of discarded book spines, these cut and carved tomes remind us that art is not a thing but a way of being in the world that transmutes its dead cells into living materials, its cultural legacy into ever-evolving art forms and creative sensibilities." - Brain Pickings

"The 27 visual artists whose portfolios comprise this exciting collection each work with printed books as their medium. They carve, paint, and repurpose pulp to striking effect, building startling secondary evocations from their material's primary narratives.... The central message is uplifting and joyous—that a book is a uniquely precious, infinitely malleable treasure chest in the hands of an ambitious artist.... A magical collection of paper wonders." - Publishers Weekly

"As a bibliophile, you might have conflicting emotions about these sculptures. Many books were harmed in the making of this book. But the thousands of painted, shredded, and petrified pages are not so much defiled as exalted by the artists whose works are shown in lush photos here." - Entertainment Weekly

"Books take on a whole new life in Laura Heyenga's anthology of groundbreaking artists who've stitched, sliced, cut and carved bound literature to create anything from an intricate chess set to a huge area rug to a literary jewelry collection. (Never fear: The artists use recycled or discarded books—that otherwise would end up in landfills!). In fact, the real joy of this book comes from discovering how each individual starts with the same item and yet ends up with vastly different works of art." - Oprah.com

A wonderful, inspirational book on the possibility of making something from 'nothing'. The artists represented show a wide range of uses for books along with totally unique techniques. My only wish is for a 'how-to' book to follow!

this book is a slow pace of wonder at how the books were transformed into something extraordinary. There is a lot of explanation, beautiful photos and incredible imagination by the artist. This would be a great guest room book as it can easily be picked up for just a few pages. It will be picked up upon returning to the room. very peaceful.

Unfortunately this book was not what I thought it would be, I was looking for a book that would give instructions on how to do the things in the book, not just a gallery of what artists have done. Having said that, it was my fault for not reading the description carefully, and the artwork was stunning; I'm looking on google for lessons as I can't find a book that is purely on this subject.

the selection of artists is very varied, so you get a great sense of the whole range of pieces that can be created for the book art--very well representative, I ordered several and have given a few away--love this book!

I saw this on display at a bookfair and had to have one myself. So many of such volumes have brilliant entries and then lots of filler. Not here, it's mostly very good. And varied. It will spur on to think about new ideas and projects. Many thanks to Laura for putting this together. And, of course, to the artists who shared their work!

Looking through this book is like tip toeing through a magical wonderland; each page reveals a new world, some tiny & charming, others exploring a different kind of altered space. The images make one long to be able to find out how it was done, like the magician's tricks.

The book itself is wonderfully creative - just what I was hoping for. However, I purchased this hardcover edition to give as a gift, and was horrified at the condition of this "new" book. The cover is badly damaged with gouges and dirt on both front and back, and there are dirty blobs of glue on its partially covered spine. The book has been dropped on its lower front corner which is crushed to the point that the cardboard is showing through, and the very small piece of covering on the binding is so wrinkled and pale that it not only looks like it was slapped on as an afterthought, the print is also difficult to read. I am left wondering whether the condition of this book is meant to be some sort of irony. If that is the case, potential buyers should be forewarned. The condition of the copy I received should be listed as "used - fair to poor condition" rather than sold as a new book. I would be embarrassed to give this copy as the gift I intended.

Fascinating and beautiful creations, but no text descriptions or explanations -- which would have been very much appreciated.

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