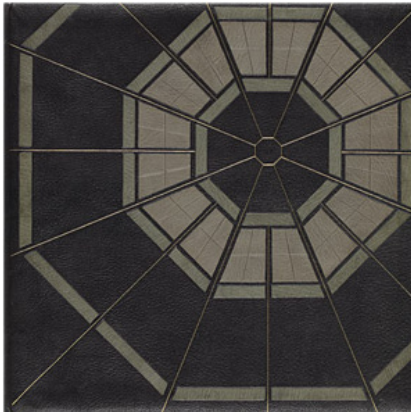


## Innovation: Book craft



*SLV Presentation Album*

In this activity sheet you'll learn about book craftsmanship – that is, the craft of making books which includes binding, marbling and book cover design. You'll also look at some interesting examples of beautifully crafted books on the Mirror of the World website.

### In the spotlight

*Seizan Goryu Ikebana Tebikigusa*  
Yoshio Yasumasa  
1789-1800

*Almanach Royal*  
Author unknown  
1785

*Harvesting Colour: The Year in a  
Marbler's Workshop*  
Ann Muir  
1999

*State Library of Victoria:  
Presentation Album of Photographs*  
Ron Eadie  
1985



*Harvesting Colour*

*Aristophanis Facetissimi  
Comoedie Novem*  
Aristophanes  
1528

*Montmartre mon Pays*  
Roland Dorgelès  
1928

### Words to know

Binding, marbling, stab binding, coat of arms, morocco leather, bookbinding

### Pages to visit

<http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/>

<http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/craftsmanship/index.php>

## The art of book production

Books are important for telling stories, expressing feelings and sharing ideas. But your book should be interesting to look at as well as interesting to read. If you want to make a book, you're going to have to think about how to decorate a front cover that's going to make people want to pick it up and start reading.

You can draw in your book, make patterns, cut shapes from coloured paper or pictures from old magazines and glue them in your book. You can also cut and fold the pages of your book into different shapes. Or paste stickers and stamp shapes in your book. The possibilities are endless...

### Activity 1 – Get interactive!

Go to the section on the Mirror of the website called Craftsmanship where you can look at a selection of beautiful book cover designs, marbling and binding.

Follow the Zoom & Pan and Rotate & Zoom links to explore in more detail the art and craftsmanship that has gone into making them. Be inspired, be innovative and allow your imagination to guide you.

<http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/craftsmanship/index.php>

### Activity 2 – So you want to make a book?

When you design your own book cover, you need to think about how to get your audience's attention. The cover is what people see first and what gets them interested in a book. You will need to think about the title, the design of the title, the picture, the colours used, and the material that it's printed on. Some covers have pictures and words, while others just have patterns and designs.

Can you think of what makes a good book cover? Think about your favourite book. What do you like most about its cover?

Now go back to the Mirror of the World website and look at the following covers of the books listed below. You'll notice they often use many colours and don't leave too many blank spaces. They have titles in interesting writing styles and usually a picture of the main character from the story.

*Puss in Boots*

[http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/imagination/begins/puss\\_in\\_boots.php](http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/imagination/begins/puss_in_boots.php)

*The Lost Thing*

[http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/imagination/begins/the\\_lost\\_thing.php](http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/imagination/begins/the_lost_thing.php)

Comics

[http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/imagination/pop\\_culture/comics/index.php](http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/imagination/pop_culture/comics/index.php)

Zines

[http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/changing\\_form/zines.php](http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/changing_form/zines.php)

The following book covers don't have titles or even pictures on their front covers. Instead they have brilliant artwork, patterns and designs. They use many different materials for their covers, like **Morocco leather**, fabric and wood. One of the books in the exhibition, *Almanach Royal*, even has a **coat of arms** pattern in real gold.

Another, *Montmartre mon Pays*, is made from goat skin.

The *SLV Presentation Album* has a design that looks like the Domed Reading Room ceiling of the State Library of Victoria.

*Etisoppo*

[http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/changing\\_form/etisoppo.php](http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/changing_form/etisoppo.php)

*Monmartre Mon Pays*

<http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/craftsmanship/montmartre.php>

*Almanch Royal*

[http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/craftsmanship/almanach\\_royal.php](http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/craftsmanship/almanach_royal.php)

*Seizan Goryu Ikebana Tebikishu*

[http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/craftsmanship/seizan\\_goryu.php](http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/craftsmanship/seizan_goryu.php)

*SLV Presentation Album*

[http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/craftsmanship/slv\\_album.php](http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/craftsmanship/slv_album.php)

Now make a list of things that you like and don't like about these covers. It's important to know what you like and don't like in design. This will help you to decide what you want for your own front cover. Think about the pictures, writing style, colours and patterns.

Things I like about book cover design	Things I don't like about book cover design

Here are some other things you may want to think about before making your book cover.

**What kind of book is it?**

- Is the book a fantasy, science fiction, horror, spy or romance book?
- Is it a book about skating, computer games or celebrities?
- Do you want to include a picture of your main character, or will your book look better with a pattern or design on the front?

**Who is your audience?**

- Is this book for young children, teenagers, or people interested in comics, movies or romance stories?
- What do you think people your age group like to look at? How is it different to what adults or younger children prefer? Do they prefer the use of brighter colours or darker colours? Will they identify with the character on the front cover?
- Look at the covers in the exhibition and decide who they are most likely to appeal to.

**Title**

- What style will you write the title in? For more ideas look at the titles on some of your favourite covers, or look at some of the different fonts on a computer.

**The art of marbling**

**Marbling** is the art of making beautiful coloured patterns which usually go on the inside of the cover, so it's the first thing you see when you open the book. Adding marbling to your book design can transform your book into a special art object.

Look at the examples of marbling on the Mirror of the World website.

*Harvesting Colour*

[http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/craftsmanship/harvesting\\_colour.php](http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/craftsmanship/harvesting_colour.php)

*Aristophanis Facetissimi Comoedie Novem*

<http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/craftsmanship/aristophanis.php>

Marbling began in Japan about 800 years ago, and it has also been popular in the Middle East for hundreds of years. Some people say that it was discovered by accident (this is partly why you should always experiment in art). This is how it's done:

- Special coloured inks are carefully put in a tray of water.
- Then the inks are swirled around into patterns with a special tool.
- Then some paper is put on top of the water.
- The paper absorbs the colours in whatever pattern the ink has made in the water.

**Question time**

1. Have you seen marbling before? Where?

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2. What can you see in the patterns? What does it look like?

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3. How do you think artists make these patterns? What materials, tools and other things would you need?

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### Activity 2 – Do you own marbling

Like to have a go at marbling yourself? The following website has easy to follow step-by-step instructions for marbling with colour photos.

<http://www.show.me.uk/site/make/Art-and-Design/STO953.html>

Watch Ann Muir, who did the marbling in *Harvesting Colour: The Year in a Marbler's Workshop*. She uses a big comb, called a stylus to make patterns with the ink in the water.

[www.annmuirmarbling.co.uk](http://www.annmuirmarbling.co.uk)

### The art of binding

**Binding** is the art of putting pages together into books and adding covers to protect the pages. Pick up the nearest book and look closely at its spine – how is it bound? There are many different ways of putting a book together and many different materials that can be used for the covers. Most books are stuck together with glue, staples, or are stitched together with thread at the spine of the book. Some covers are made of cardboard, wood, plastic, leather and even soft fabrics like velvet.

Below are two websites with instructions on how to make different kinds of books as well as pictures to inspire you in your book making.

<http://www.sdmart.org/pix/japanesebook.pdf/>

<http://www.booklyn.org/education.php>

### Activity 3 – Get interactive!

How many new and different ways can you think of binding a book? Re-read the section on book Craftsmanship again and see if you can identify three types of **bookbinding**.

<http://www.mirroroftheworld.com.au/innovation/craftsmanship/index.php>

Now, have another look at Yoshio Yasumasa's *Seizan Goryu Ikebana Tebikigusa*. This is an example of Japanese **stab binding**. It looks great and it's easy to do. It's also a good way to make your loose pictures, photos, poems and stories into one big book.

### Activity 4 – Recycled book challenge

The following website is a gallery of the art of Karen Hatzigeorgiou. She creates original contemporary art in the form of altered books and collage:

<http://karenswhimsy.com/altered-books/>

After looking at Karen's site...are you ready for the recycled book challenge?

Can you make an entire book out of recycled materials? Every day at your school lots of paper is thrown into the bin. Help protect the environment by recycling and not using new paper and new materials. Perhaps your book could be about the importance of recycling.

This site has some easy-to-follow instructions on how to make your own paper:

<http://gort.ucsd.edu/preseduc/papermak.htm>

Use scrap magazines to make your book. Cut up pictures and put them together in a collage to create new pictures. Cut out words to create a new and interesting story (this is harder than it sounds). You can even use an old out-of-date telephone book.

You can also use bottle tops, polystyrene, plastic/wire ties and scrap wool and fabric to hold your book together, or as part of the collage-picture on the front. Why not try the Japanese stab binding described above to hold it together. Experiment to find out which is method is best.

