



ARTS PLUS

# Secret Window Books

A fun Saturday workshop for adults

## General Project Description

Time from start to finish = 4 – 6 hours (or longer if you make a more complicated final product)

You will need the following materials:

- **One sheet of paper 11x14 inches**(this will be used for the inner pages of the book)
- **2 pieces of chipboard or thick cardboard, 4x6 inches each**
- **Paper for painting at least 5x7 inches in size** (a good variety of lightweight paper you have around the house, including old magazine or book pages)
- **Paint** (acrylic is good, but you can work with whatever you have, including watercolor, tempera, poster paint, gouache, etc.)
- **Crayons, markers, or paint pens**
- **Paint brushes**
- **Jar for water**
- **Pencil**
- **Ruler**
- **Glue** (regular white glue or glue sticks)
- **Clean scrap paper**, computer paper or newsprint is good
- **X-acto Knife** or scissors
- **Cutting matt** (or a piece of scrap cardboard)



Our second Art At Home Workshop for Adults, “Secret Window Books” is designed as an accessible foray into the art of bookmaking. Using techniques we explored in our first Art At Home Workshop for Adults, “Painted Paper Portraits”, we will learn how to create handmade bookboards from painted or printed paper. For those intimidated by the often precise nature of bookmaking and binding, this simple book design project allows participants to explore the wider world of Artist’s Books through experimentation with personal ideas and imagery in book form. The steps laid out in these instructions include predetermined measurements to minimize guesswork and allow participants to focus more on decorative techniques and their book’s overall aesthetic.

This project has been broken down into three distinct parts, which you can do separately or all in one sitting. The first step involves creating the decorative paper for the book boards, or the front and back cover of the book; this step is fun and carefree and lends itself to experimentation. In the next step we will measure out and assemble the book itself; this step is quite meditative and requires concentration for precise measurements. For the final step, will be create the ‘secret window’ and add decorative drawing, painting, and collage to the assembled book. By the time we get to the third step, you will be more familiar and comfortable with the book design process. New ideas and designs may start to emerge and you may want to try starting a second book! So, consider setting aside time at the end for making multiples and additional creative experimentation.

We suggest that you **read through all the instruction sheets first** before starting the project, then clear a nice open space for your work, like a large desk or kitchen table, and dive in. Above all else, **DON’T TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY**, be willing to break the rules and take this project in your own unique direction! (After all, that’s where the magic of a creative studio practice really happens...) We want this workshop to be your little island of sanity in a big sea of crazy.

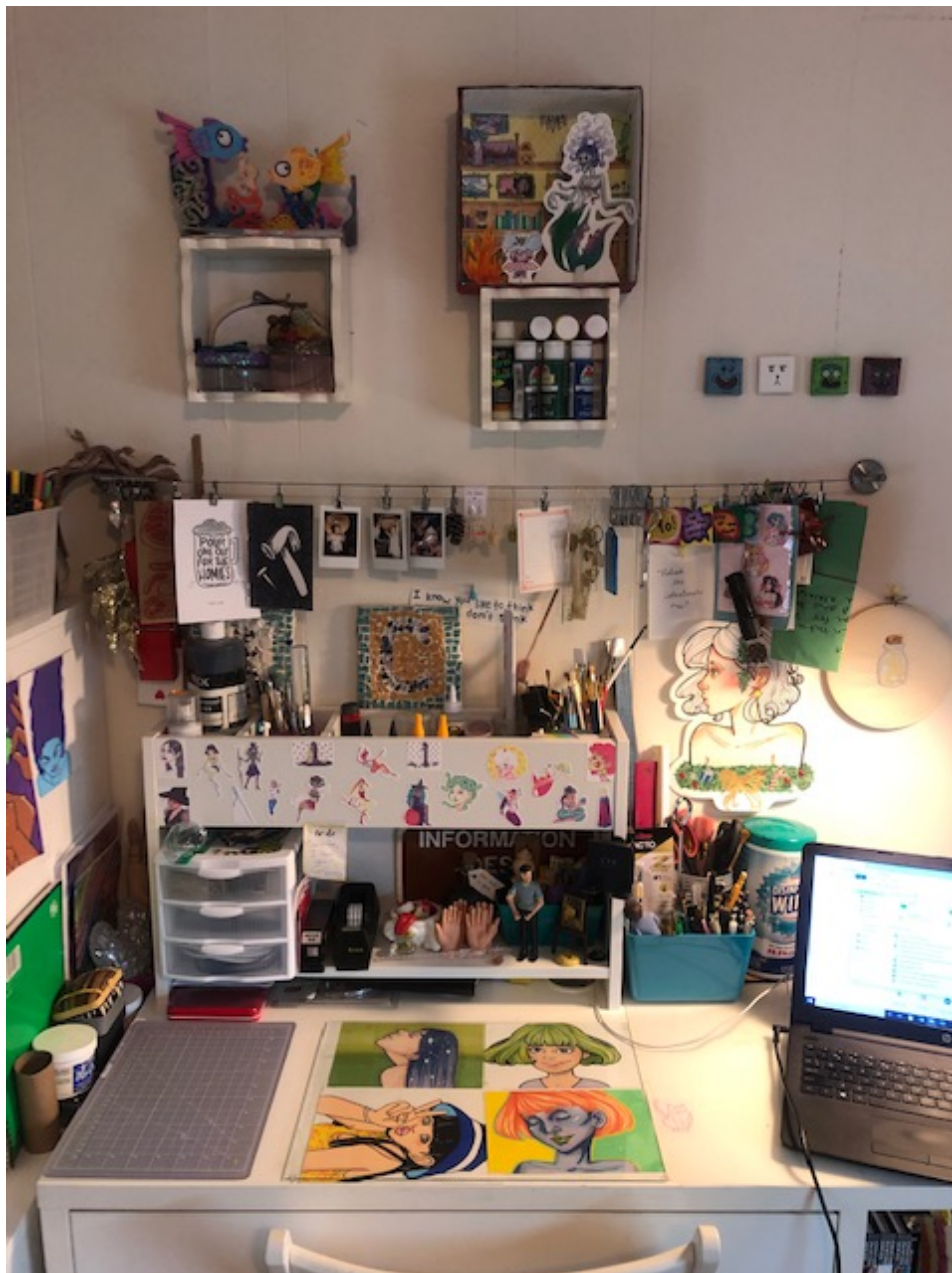
Happy Making!

## CULTURE BLOCKS

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*My workspace at home is part of a shared space with other members of my household. I keep a workspace clear for small projects and have most of my heavily used supplies in easy reach. I often find myself moving to the floor or setting up a collapsible table for larger projects. I find what I value most in a workspace is easy access to my tools and being surrounded by my inspiring images and works in progress.*