



ARTS PLUS

Triangle Accordion Books

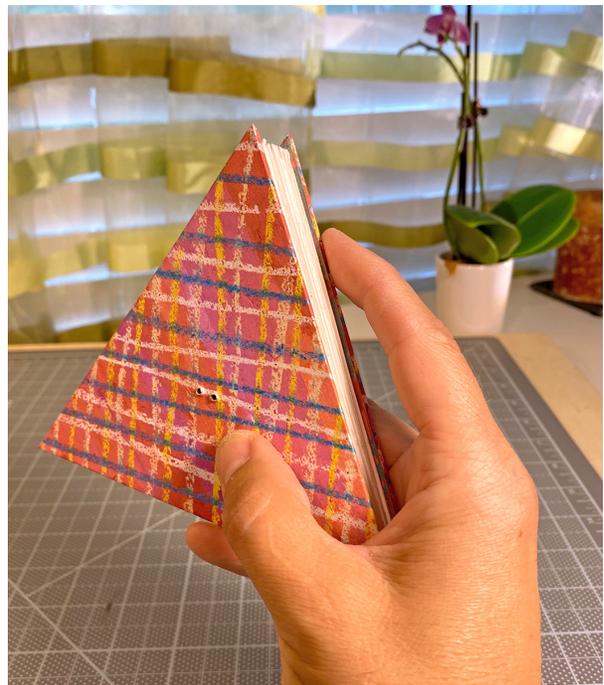
A fun Saturday workshop for adults

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:

- **Three sheets of paper, cut to 20" long X 4 3/8" high** (this will be used for the inner pages of the book, you can use any heavier paper for this, but I would suggest cutting your three strips from a single sheet of 22" X 30" watercolor paper)
- **2 pieces of chipboard or thick cardboard, 6 x 6 inches each**
- **Paper for painting at least 6 x 6 inches in size** (a good variety of lightweight paper you have around the house, may include 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)
- **Buttons, coins, or other interesting small flat found objects** (This is for an optional final decorative step at the end of the book making process.)





Our third Art At Home Workshop for Adults, “Triangle Accordion Books” is a deeper dive into the world of Book Arts and alternative, handmade book design. Accordion books are made by folding one long sheet of paper back and forth into an “accordion” style pleat, which expands into three dimensions when the book is open and contracts back into a traditional book shape when the book is closed. These infinitely variable forms have a playful feel to them (kind of like a Slinky!) and are a delight to handle. Scrolling narrative art on the inside and bold decorative additions to the front and back covers can add to the surprise and variation of accordion book design.

This third workshop builds off some of the techniques we explored in our first two Art at Home Workshops, but you don’t need any experience with making books to begin (the pdf instructions for both of these previous workshops are still available for free on the Arts+ website: <https://www.artsplus.org/resources/visual-art-resources>) We will make painted paper for the front and back covers (as in workshop #1) and fold our paper step-by-step (as in workshop #2). Then we will experiment with altering the finished accordion book form by cutting into our pages and adding flat found objects to our covers.

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; this step is fun and carefree and lends itself to experimentation. In the next step we will measure out, cut, fold, and assemble the book itself; this part is quite meditative and requires concentration and precision. For the final step, we will explore different possibilities for altering our books by cutting through the inside pleats and decorating the outside covers, including adding found objects that can be “hidden” within the inner pages themselves. By the time we get to the third step, you will be more comfortable with book design and may want to try making a second accordion book to further extend your creative ideas! (So consider collecting more than the minimum materials at the start, and setting aside time at the end for starting a second book and additional creative experimentation)

We **STRONGLY** suggest that you **read through all the instruction sheets first** before starting this 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 creative time to be your little island of sanity in a big sea of crazy.

Happy Making!



The workspace in my home studio. It's good to give yourself a designated space, like a desk or kitchen table, to work on for book projects that involve multiple steps. Make sure you have lots of scrap paper handy (for the gluing part of the process), trays or containers for keeping your supplies organized, and lots of good lighting.

CULTURE BLOCKS

a community partnership between



CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
LIBRARY