



Playing with Books: The Art of Upcycling, Deconstructing, and Reimagining the Book

Jason Thompson

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In these pages, Jason Thompson has curated an extensive and artistic range of both achievable upcycled crafts made from books and book pages and an amazing gallery that contains thought-provoking and beautiful works that transform books into art.

The content encompasses a wide range of techniques and step-by-step projects that deconstruct and rebuild books and their parts into unique, upcycled objects. The book combines in equal measure bookbinding, woodworking, paper crafting, origami, and textile and decorative arts techniques, along with a healthy dose of experimentation and fun. The beautiful high-end presentation and stunning photography make this book a delightful, must-have volume for any book-loving artist or art-loving book collector.

Playing with Books: The Art of Upcycling, Deconstructing, and Reimagining the Book Details

Date : Published April 1st 2010 by Quarry Books (first published 2010)

ISBN : 9781592536009

Author : Jason Thompson

Format : Paperback 152 pages

Genre : Art, Nonfiction, Crafts, Writing, Books About Books

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From Reader Review Playing with Books: The Art of Upcycling, Deconstructing, and Reimagining the Book for online ebook

Robin says

It's really not fair for me to categorize this as a craft book but I put it there so I'll know where to find it in the future. This is a beautiful book with ideas that I've used in library programs. It's lovely to look at and inspiring. My goal is to make more creations from this book with library patrons. So far we have made the bookpage wreaths. Next up is the book pumpkin then the flowers.

Miriam says

As is often the case with craft books, the easier projects that I have the skills and/or tools for are not appealing to me, and the ones that I like better are too difficult. Here's one I might try, maybe a smaller twig with just a flower or two not for decor but as a decoration on a gift.

My favorite part was the end section reproducing images of altered books by real artists (not that Thompson isn't a real artist, but the projects in the book are not really art... why would I want to cut a paperback into the shape of an apple?)

Thomas Allen

Nicola Dale

Robert The

And I think I need Creative City the Hague. Please but them for me.

Bunny says

I could never do everything in this book, as I'm nowhere near crafty enough. But the ideas are PHENOMENAL, and I can't resist daydreaming about getting some old destructible books and playing.

I'm also amused that I saw half the ideas for these on different Upcycling websites before I ever saw this book. Ah, internet.

Kimberly says

A great book that shows how to create different projects from old and discarded books. I will be trying some of these to see how they come out. I only wish some of the instructions for the more complicated projects had a little more to them. Also I thought some of the pictures could have been better, they used a shallow depth of field so only one small part of the picture is in focus and you can't see the details on the rest of the picture, so it's hard to see some of the finished projects clearly. But overall a good book that shows you how to have fun with your old books and not just throw them away.

Charla Wilson says

This is a perfect book for book lovers! It is about creating art with books. You will not believe the beautiful things that can be created with a book. There are a few things that are way out of my abilities range, but they are wonderful to look at for inspiration. But, most of the projects can be created by anyone with a little time and determination. My favorite project is making a beautiful wreath from old book pages I am also inspired by the Book Bag that is created from decorative book pages and a sewing machine. It even includes directions for a woven basket made with book pages. All of the projects have great photographs to guide you through the process. There are at least 20 projects in this book! If you love books as much as I do, then the next step after reading them is to turn them into a piece of art!

Helen Pugsley says

There's some really cool ideas in here! But I've had to go to outside sources to make sure I'm doing it right. Thus, I knocked off a star.

Mickey says

The semi-puritanical me is HORRIFIED at the idea of desecrating a book. I whimper when I see a book- any book- dropped, mangled, or mutilated. However, if a book MUST be altered from it's normal form, the ideas presented here are fairly good ones! The projects are doable if you have a bit more time and patience than I do, and the art gallery presented at the end is nothing less than amazing.

liberal sprinkles says

If you're looking for examples of paper crafts and book art, there are other books that are more comprehensive, like Papercraft: Design and Art With Paper or Masters: Book Arts: Major Works by Leading Artists. But Playing with Books is fantastic for people who like to get their hands dirty. There are lots of tutorials on crafting books into other forms, and making fun and creative things with book pages.

Most of the projects are easy even for beginner paper crafters and lovers. How about folding a nice sheet of

paper to make a special envelope? Or cutting up some paperback covers into postcards? Too easy? All right then, try making your own billfold, beads, bag, flowers, ornaments, mobile, gift box or wreath. The photo-accompanied instructions will help you do all that.

There is also a gallery of book artworks that are a feast for the eyes. If you like to make things with your hands, this book is definitely fun!

this review is adapted from a longer one at liberal sprinkles <http://liberalsprinkles.blogspot.com/...>

Samantha says

This one had a lot of projects I could see myself making. I enjoyed it. I hope others do too! (I added it to my library.)

Sue Leinberger says

One or two projects that interested me, good instructions. At least half of the book is taken up with art made from books, I would have liked to have seen more practical projects.

Jen Cameron says

The projects were mostly meh, with a couple decent ones. The redeeming quality was the gallery of artists. He art was amazing.

Ligaya says

This is a beautiful book full of creative uses of the book as a craft material. Photography is excellent, DIY directions are brief but doable. I have a goal of completing several projects!

Lori says

When I visited the Main Library yesterday, I shopped around and discovered this gem in the stacks: *Playing With Books: The Art of Upcycling, Deconstructing, and Reimaging the Book* by Jason Thompson.

Archivists and other book purists may cringe at the thought of tearing up books to make art, but I believe the artist is showing new ways to turn books that are damaged, discarded, or outdated (such as medical and science books), or otherwise unreadable into a new art form. It is an interesting concept. I enjoy working with paper and embrace the idea of using recycled materials to make art.

Anna Richland says

This captured my 7 yr old daughter's imagination, and she wanted to read it at bedtime! A craft book at bedtime!

We started the Book Mobile of butterflies on p. 78 out of old atlas pages we had received as gift wrap - talk about multi-levels of recycling. It's a long project, and I can't claim that she and I have finished it yet, but it's looking lovely so far. I think we'll make the book apple for teacher presents, and the idea of using a clay base for papier mache mushrooms, birds, etc on pg 102 is adorable. Some of the projects seem to be for serious paper artists, like the phone book tutu, but there are plenty to do with a child.

This ties to the Bellevue (WA) Art Museum exhibit A World of Paper, A World of Fashion on view now.

Katharina says

While the general idea of CUTTING UP A BOOK still horrifies me, even I have to admit I have a few old ones that I picked up at library sales etc that are completely falling apart at the seams anyway. And for those, this is absolutely perfect. There are so many gorgeous ideas in here that I can't wait to try out on my next day off.
