Artists make an assemblage by collecting everyday items and placing them together to help tell a story or make a beautiful visual image. They might pick objects based on color, texture, size or meaning. By putting them together they can create symmetry or build contrast between different items. This might include using a background that helps complete the image or layering items to create depth.

Featured in FAM’s exhibition After Spiritualism: Loss and Transcendence in Contemporary Art, Rose Marasco’s Diaries present journals surrounded by different objects, adding meaning and visual interest to the entries in the diaries. Often these items are related to the text, sometimes referencing events, like using silverware along with entries describing dinner plans. In other works, there is wordplay, or a visual pun, like using popcorn with an entry that uses the word “popped”.

You can make your own assemblage inspired by Rose Marasco’s work! Popularized on social media accounts like @bookbento on Instagram, these “book bentos” are a wonderful example of found object sculpture and photography. Make one, take a picture, and post it to social media! Remember to use the hashtags #FAM #MuseumFromHome!
Materials:

- A book you would like to recommend
- A variety of small items based on that book
- A camera or a phone to take a picture

Directions:

- Pick a book you want to share!
- Brainstorm a list of objects to arrange near your books:
  a. Think about the color, shape, and design of the cover of the book.
  b. Are there objects that are important in the story? Think about foods, clothing, things from nature, and other household items.
  c. Are there symbols from the story? Colors, images, or shapes that come up again and again?
  d. What do YOU imagine when you think about this story?
- Collect items that are on your list or are similar to your list. Think about proportion and size. Maybe you want your items to all be very similar or all very different.
- Pick a background for the items to sit on and set up your scene.
- Take a picture!
- Share it with your friends and with us at #FAM #MuseumFromHome!