

Book Assemblage

Use found objects to make art about books

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!

