

Anna Morgan
Minigrant Outcome Report
Spring 2018

Deconstructing the Artist Book

This Spring I have been exploring the versatility and potential of book materials as they pertain to non-book objects, or deconstructed books.

During the Fall semester, I worked on a book exploring self, memory, and the way everything we do and experience changes who we are. So, building from these skills and ideas, I wanted to explore self and language, and the intersection of language and symbols, where words become abstract mark-making. I wanted to create ten works that incorporated book materials into two-dimensional monotypes. My original concept held true for the project, but the final, physical outcome differed a bit. I ended up making more, smaller works, with just two bigger works. A few of them are still in progress as I experiment more with layering.

I started by staining paper. Once I received the typewriter, I began experimenting with type and patterns I could make with the letters and punctuation, and the overlapping of such. If one were to describe a book of sewn paper and text, you may as well call these works a series of books. I believe there is still a story among the marks and decisions. There is still a process evident in the final product.

I also researched typewriter art, and the different ways artists have used it in the past. I did this to both garner inspiration as well as to understand better the specificity of such a form; what can an artist get from this method that they can't elsewhere? Some literally used the letters, as I did; others took the machine more as an object of art in itself, such as UVA's visiting artist, Sheryl Oring. It was inspiring to see all the different ways people thought to manipulate their typewriter—writing straight text, creating geometric forms, sketching portraits. I think the text becomes more easily incorporated and versatile as specific meaning gets lost—as ink blurs and overlaps and fades. There is a certain texture evident in this mode of making. Texture and meaning and weight.

I made no major deviations from my original budget.

Thank you so much to Miller Arts Scholars and its donors for their generous support and making this project and learning experience possible! I am always so grateful to the Arts Scholars program.

Expenditures

Typewriter	\$300
Paper	\$130
Thread	\$20
Acrylic paint	\$20
Acrylic medium	\$15
Wax	\$15
Total	\$500



Isn't she beautiful?