Handmade Books
by Shawna Moulton

Born and raised in the Caribbean Islands, Shawna Moulton is a multidisciplinary artist and art educator based in South Florida. She is best known for her paper-casting sculptures of the human figure, illustrations on handmade paper, unique book making, and her watercolor paintings reflecting motherhood. Use this activity booklet to create your own handmade book out of any kind of paper you like. Then, think about the things, people, pets and more that you love and draw or write about them inside! Send us photos of your books and what you’ve put inside to be shared on social media!

Email photos of your completed projects to be highlighted on social media to yaamuseum@gmail.com and share your handmade books with Shawna by tagging her @shawnamoultonart

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Handmade Books | Step By Step Guide

Follow each step below to create your own handmade book! Many times Shawna makes her own paper to create one-of-a-kind books like the one you see on the front page from various materials and paper pulps. Get creative and use any color, texture or patterned paper you like!

Materials You’ll Need: paper of your choice, a pair of scissors, a pencil, a ruler, string for binding your book.

Step 1:
Cut your sheets of paper into rectangular pieces and make sure they are all the same size. Measure to find the center of the paper and use your ruler to draw a line in the middle where you will fold to create your pages.

Step 2:
Fold each of your sheets of paper in half on the line you drew in the middle of the page. Make sure they all fit into each other.

Step 3:
Put all your folded sheets together to create the pages of your book! Make sure they all match up in size. Put them in any order you like based on the colors, patterns and textures of the paper you chose.

Step 4:
Line up all of your pages and make two holes in each page, exactly in the same spot, using your scissors or sharpened pencil. Make sure each of the holes lines up with the holes in the other pages as this is where you will bind your book!
**Step 5:**
Make sure you have holes in each of your pages, including the page you’ve chosen as your cover. Put all your pages together and flip it over with the cover on top.

**Step 6:**
Put your string through the top hole from the inside of your book and pull it through. Put your string through the second hole at the bottom and pull it through again.

**Step 7:**
Once your string is pulled through back to the inside of your book, tie it tight so that all your pages stay together. You now have your own handmade book!

**Step 8:**
Think about people, pets or things you love and put pictures or stories about them inside your book! Draw or write about what or who you love inside of your new book and send us pictures to yaamuseum@gmail.com