

artist activities at SBMA

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Sketchbook with Three-Hole Stitch

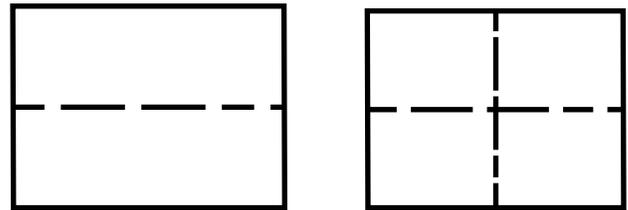
A collage of overlapping images, the most prominent being a kohlrabi in the right corner, burned into the paper. In softer red washes a pair of hands scrub a set of chair legs, and in the background a checkerboard pattern alternates soft blues and greens with vague photo-like images some of which are discernable as a clock face, and several human faces.

It's called *Sortie* and it was made of mixed media and paper in 1961. The print you'll find at the SBMA was the third within an edition of sixteen and measures 20.5" x 22.5".

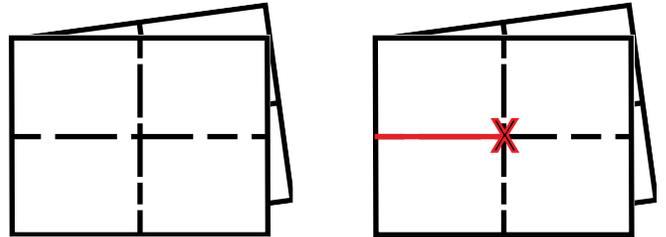
Sketchbook with Three-Hole Stitch

We will use this book form to create several sketchbooks and a finished editioned project at the end of the semester. The pages of this book are folded from a single sheet of rectangular paper. Tabloid (11 x 17") paper will give you the biggest book (4 1/4" X 5 1/2"). All eight pages are visible from the same side of the paper making reproduction on a photocopy machine very easy. Once printed, the cover and pages can be bound with a binder's stapler or a simple three hole stitch.

1. Fold the sheet in half length wise like a hot dog bun and then, fold in half like a hamburger bun. Unfold the page.

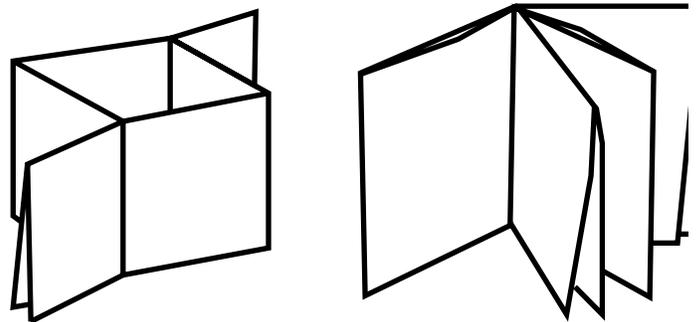


2. Fold each end into the center and crease. Unfold completely and the page should now have eight rectangles.



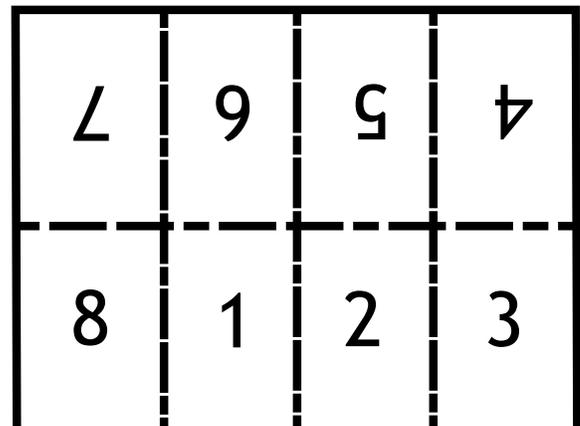
3. Fold in half again like a hamburger bun. Using scissors, cut from the folded edge into the first crease (the X in the diagram).

4. This book is called an X-book. If you fold the page in half length wise (hot dog) and push in on the edges folding out the center pages, the book will form an X.

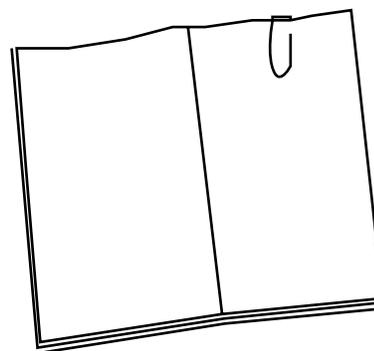


5. Holding the left page of the X, fold the next page over on top of it. Do this with the two remaining pages. Crease the entire stack adjusting your folds if necessary. This produces an eight page book.

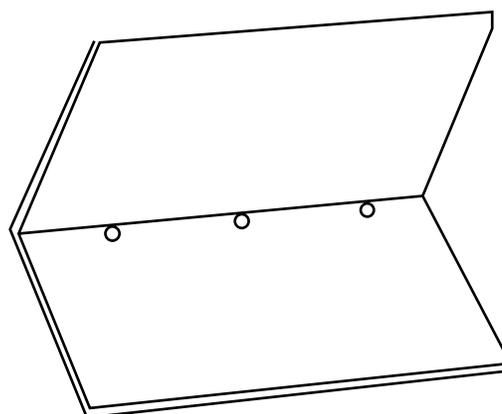
6. Number the pages and unfold the book. Look at how the pages are laid out. Page 1 will be the front of the book and page 8 will be the back of the book. Pay attention to the fact that one row of pages is upside down from the other row of pages. this makes the book work!



7. Cut and fold your cover in half (hamburger bun). The cover page should be 9" wide x 5 1/2" high. The finished cover will be 4 1/4" wide x 5 1/2" high after folding. Paper clip the cover to the folded 8 page booklet (signature).

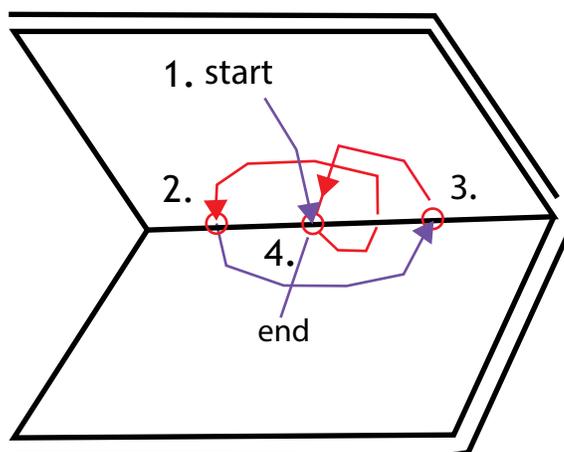


8. Measure and mark three holes on the inside spine of the middle page of the book. Try to space the holes equally. Place the book on a flat surface and punch the three holes using an awl or sewing needle from the inside of the book to the outside.



9. Cut a piece of string or thread about 18" long. Thread a needle leaving a 3 or 4 inch tale of thread. Do not knot the ends. Sew the spine using the diagram.

1. Start inside the book and pass the thread through the center hole to the outside of the book. Catch the long tail of the thread with your thumb and index finger, holding it inside the book as you sew. 2. Sew to the far left hole passing the needle into the inside of the book. 3. Pass the needle to the far right hole exiting to the outside of the book. 4. Enter back into the book through the center hole. With the loose ends of the thread, tie a double knot around the long center thread. Trim the thread to the appropriate length.



10. The magic of this book form is being able to create the book on a single side of a printed page and then folding it into a multi-page book with images on both sides of the folded pages. This creates interior pages that can be filled with additional images or can be glued together to read as a solid page. This finishing decision is up to each individual artists to make as they complete their book.

Here are some links to additional information:

<https://www.deviantart.com/droakir/art/Mini-Comic-Book-Template-and-Tutorial-420833677>

<https://docpop.org/2018/01/how-to-make-mini-comics-my-guide-to-cutting-and-folding-an-8-page-zine/>

Questions, comments or criticism? +)

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