



by Becky Johnston
Summer 2022

Art Kit Guidebook



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ZINE-MAKING ART KIT by Becky Johnston

Our Mission

Path with Art fosters the restoration of individuals, groups, and society from the effects of trauma through arts engagement and community-building. Path with Art is driven by our vision: A world where arts engagement is recognized as transformative—**connecting the individual with self, the self with community, and communities with society**. In this world, the power of arts engagement is available for all. Welcome to our creative community!

What is this kit about?

Storytelling is a radical act! Zines (“zeens”) are a powerful way to explore and expand your creative vision and give voice to your work. This kit provides the materials, instructions, and inspiration to make and distribute simple artist books. An online video tutorial by Teaching Artist Becky Johnston will be available to all of those who receive the art kit.

What’s in this kit?

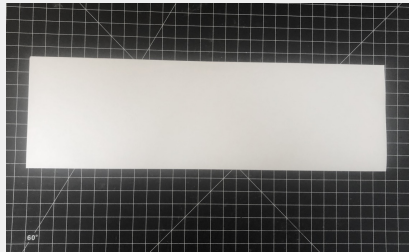
- Bone Folder (paper folding tool)
- Glue Stick
- Cutting Mat
- Sharpie Fine Point Marker
- Ruler
- Craft Knife
- White Paper (10 sheets of 8.5” x 11” and 5 sheets of 8.5” x 14”)
- Recycled, Upcycled, Ephemera Paper

I’ve included some suggestions for experimenting with mark-making and book forms, and you may want to explore these or other ideas using your favorite art materials and items that you have on hand.

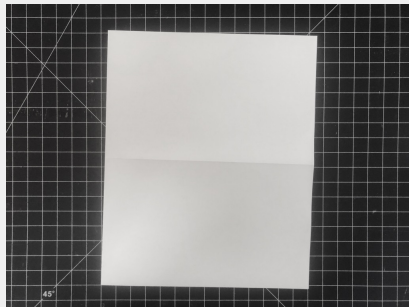
“Insta-Books”

These simple six-page books are a great way to dip into the possibilities of bookmaking. If you're interested in distributing your work, you can create inexpensive multiples on a copier. *(Tip: Seattle Public Library and King County Libraries cardholders can print ten free black and white or three color copies per week.)*

X-Book



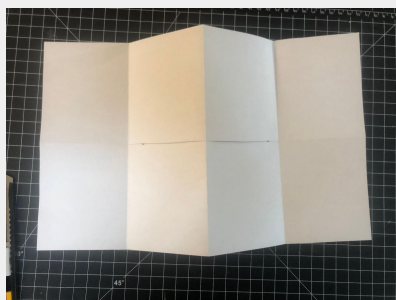
Fold paper in half horizontally, creasing the fold with the bone folder. Open the paper.



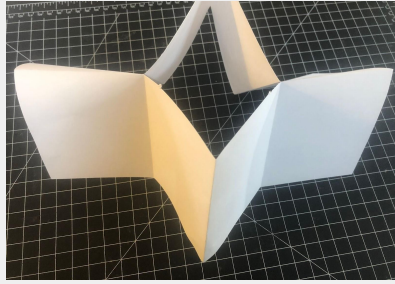
Fold the sheet left to right, creasing your fold with the bone folder. Open the paper and turn it over.



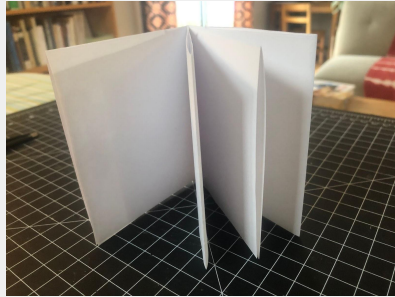
Fold the left and right edges to the middle fold and crease. (This is called an accordion or concertina fold.)



Open your paper and check that there is a mountain fold in the center. Your paper should be divided into eight sections (four vertical and two horizontal). Using your knife, cut the middle two vertical sections along the horizontal fold. It's helpful to use your ruler to cut a straight line.



Holding the paper at the horizontal fold, bring the top and bottom edges together.



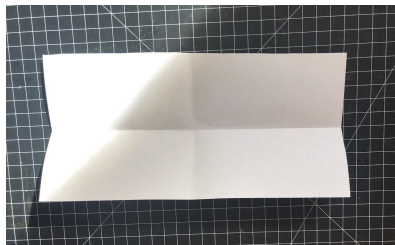
Fold pages into a book form, creasing firmly with your bone folder.

Square Variation

For the proportions to work, this x-book variation should be made using an 8.5" x 11" sheet.



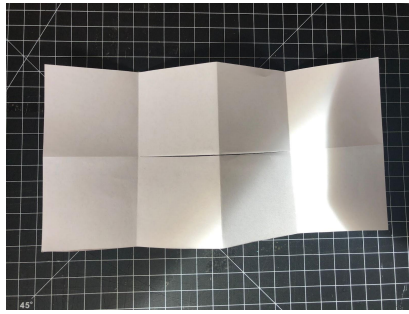
With your paper vertical, divide it into thirds. You can use the ruler or eyeball the measurement by loosely folding an "s" shape.



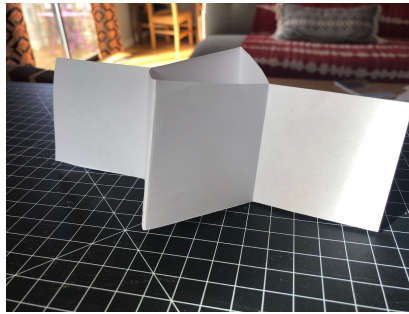
Using your knife, trim one third of the sheet and reorient your paper horizontally. It's helpful to use your ruler to cut a straight line.



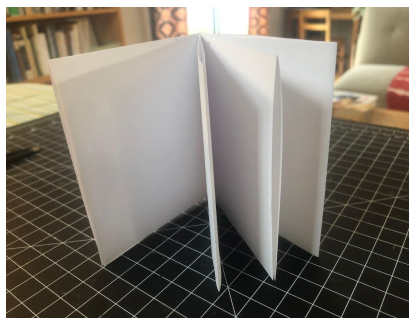
Fold your paper left to right and crease. Open and turn your paper over. Fold the edges to the middle fold and crease.



Unfold your paper. You should have eight square sections. With the mountain fold in the center, cut the middle two sections along the horizontal line. It's helpful to use your ruler to cut a straight line.



Holding the paper at the horizontal fold, bring the top and bottom edges together.



Fold pages into a book form, creasing firmly with your bone folder.

Content

There are all different kinds of zines on topics from A to Z. No matter what, the content should be what's important to YOU. Some ideas: comics, micro-fiction, poetry, visual art, memoir, politics, science, DIY manual, food, music. The possibilities are endless!

Playing With Form: X-Books and Beyond

As you make your zine, think about experimenting with different layouts. Some ideas:

- Rectangles in different proportions
- Biggest and smallest possible book
- Edging (only the corners because x-books fall apart when trimmed)

Playing With Form: X-Books and Beyond (continued)

- Experiment with the reverse/interior of the book. You can make a “poster” on the reverse side of the book or play with cutouts/windows on pages if you want to display your zine as a 3-D sculptural book with an interior.
- Recycled papers/altered books
- Stitchery
- Found text/erasure
- Textures
- Write, draw, paint
- Stamping, printmaking
- Collage and mixed-media

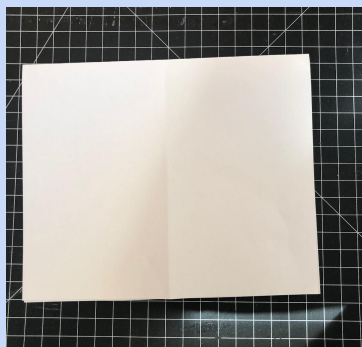
Snake Books and Family

This set of book structures were originally designed by artist Scott McCarney. You can play with large images by folding/unfolding the pages completely or you can use them as a more conventional book form.

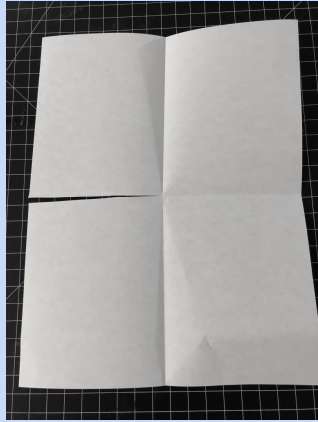
Shorts (or Ox-Plow)



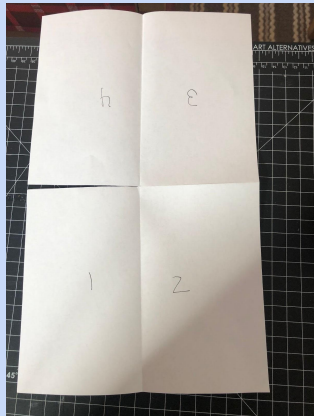
With your paper vertical, fold left to right, creasing with your bone folder. Open the paper.



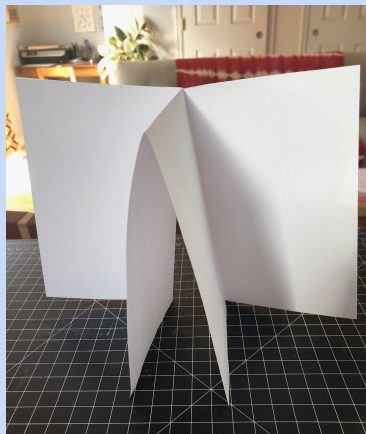
Turn paper over and fold it top to bottom, creasing with the bone folder. Open the paper. You will have four sections.



Turn paper over. Cut along the horizontal line to the vertical fold in the middle of the sheet. It's helpful to use your ruler to cut a straight line.



This is the text layout. The bottom left section is your first page, with the cover on the reverse side. Note the pages three and four are upside down.



Fold your book into sections, starting with page one and alternating your folds in an accordion style according to the mountain and valley folds you made.

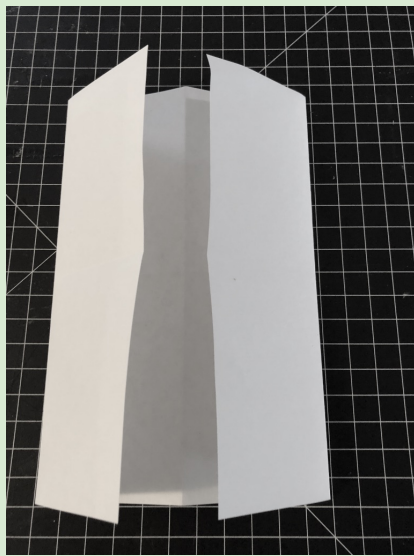
Pants



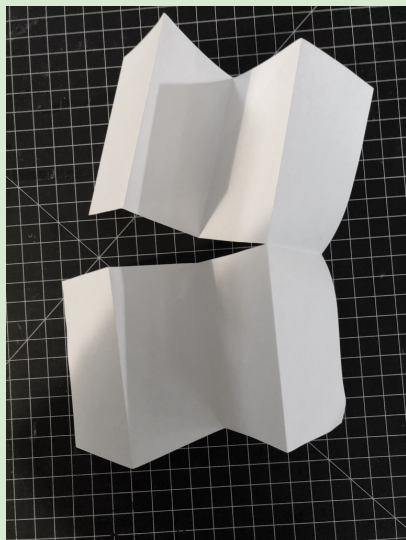
With your paper horizontal, fold it in half top to bottom, creasing with your bone folder. Open.



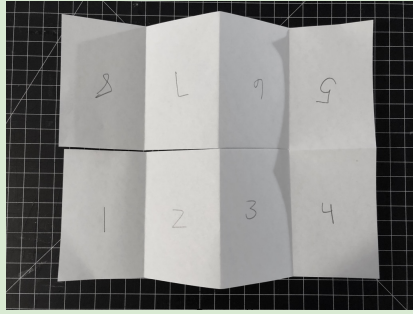
Fold your paper left to right, creasing it. Turn the paper over so that this fold becomes a mountain fold.



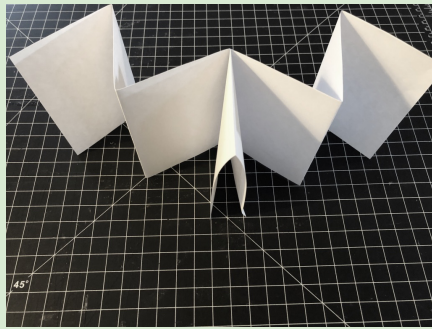
Fold the left and right edges to the middle fold, crease, and open.



Cut along the horizontal line, leaving one rectangle from the right edge intact. It's helpful to use your ruler to cut a straight line.



This is the text layout. The bottom left is page one, with the cover on the reverse side. Note that pages five through eight (top row) are upside down.

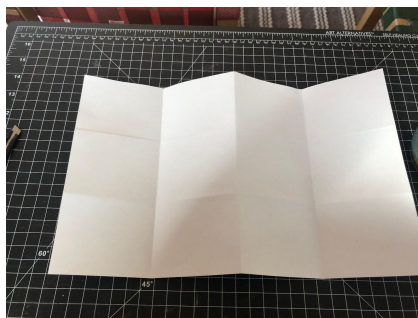


Fold your book, starting with page one and alternating your folds in an accordion style according to the mountain and valley folds you made.

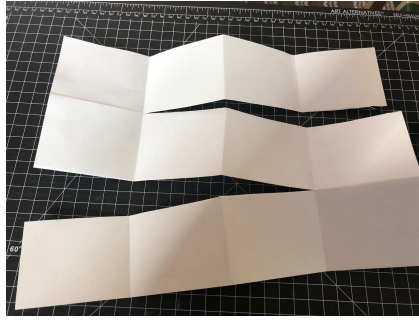
Snake



With your paper vertical, divide it into thirds. You can use the ruler or eyeball the measurement by loosely folding an "s" shape. Crease with your bone folder and open.

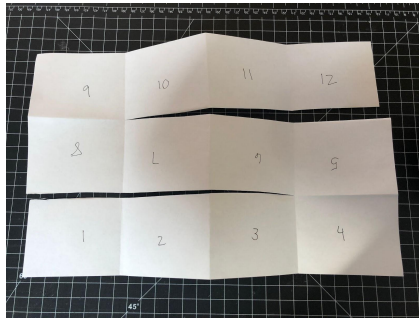


Reorient your paper horizontally. Fold left to right, turn the paper over and fold the edges to the middle fold. After creasing all of your folds, open the paper. You should have twelve equal sections, with a mountain fold in the middle.

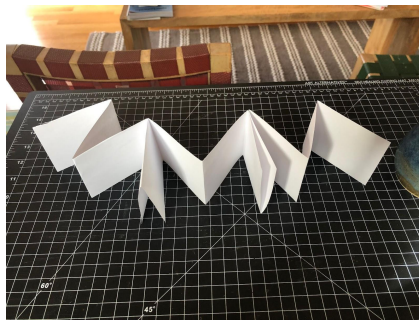


Cut left to right along the bottom horizontal line, leaving the last fold on right intact. Cut right to left along the top horizontal line, leaving the first fold on the left intact. It's helpful to use your ruler to cut a straight line.

Your paper should look like an “s.”



This is the text layout. The bottom left is page one, with the cover on the reverse side. Note that pages five through eight (middle row) are upside down.



Fold your book, starting with page one and alternating your folds in an accordion style according to the mountain and valley folds you made.

More Ideas for Experimenting With Snake Books

- Timelines
- Maps and journeys
- Pants/shorts – cards
- Divergent viewpoints, opposites
- Hidden art that reveals itself as it unfolds – fragments

Sharing Your Work

A note about safety and zines if you are planning on sharing your work: Be careful about publishing your home address. Getting a P.O. Box is usually the best bet if you plan to distribute your zine widely. If you can't afford a P.O. Box, consider sharing one with another zinester or list an email address so people can email you before writing to you.

Many independent bookstores that sell zines on consignment. In Seattle, Elliott Bay Book Co., Left Bank Books, and Push/Pull Gallery are worth exploring.

Etsy is a major online zine marketplace.

Organize or participate in a zine swap.

Submit your work to Path With Art's community blog, Art Transforms.

Enter the annual [Washington State Zine Contest](#), organized by the Washington Center For The Book

Additional Zine Resources

Books

Biel, Joe. Make a Zine : Start Your Own Underground Publishing Revolution. Microcosm. 2017.

Block, Francesca Lia and Hillary Carlip. Zine Scene: the Do it Yourself Guide to Zines. Lost Angeles, CA: Girl Press, 1998.

Watson, Esther Pearl and Mark Todd. Whatcha Mean What's a Zine? Graphia, 2006.

Wrekk, Alex. Stolen Sharpie Revolution: A DIY Zine Resource. Silver Sprocket. 2020.

Websites

[Quarantine Public Library](#)

Seattle Public Library [ZAPP Zine Collection](#)

Short Run [Comic and Zine Resource Page](#)

OPEN STUDIO

Weekly on Zoom

Mondays, 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Zoom information:

Meeting ID: 948 7272 9885

Passcode: path

Call in by phone: +1-253-215-8782, 948 7272 9885#

This is a Drop In class, no prior registration is necessary



Open Studio is a supportive space to work on individual creative projects, share artwork, and connect with peers. Creative Mentors are available for one-on-one support. Bring out your paints, pencils, art kits, or whatever supplies you have on hand and let's make some art together!



Art Transforms

Path with Art's Community Blog

ART TRANSFORMS COMMUNITY BLOG

We would love to see what you have created! You can take a picture of your artwork and submit it to our community blog, Art Transforms.

All who are part of the Path with Art community are welcome and invited to contribute to the Art Transforms community blog! Check it out: <https://arttransforms.blog>

For instructions on how to contribute and submission guidelines, visit <https://arttransforms.blog/submissions/>

If you don't have access to the internet, contact blog@pathwithart.org or call **206-601-7112** to arrange another submission option.