ART ACTIVITY

MAKE YOUR OWN SKETCHBOOK

Assemble your own sketchbook using simple bookbinding techniques and fill it with responses to prompts created by Artspace Emerging Artist in Residence, Carson Whitmore.

Whitmore’s abstracted paintings incorporate found objects and subjects into imaginary worlds that seem to tell a story about the mysterious and yet vaguely familiar forms.

**Age/Grade**  All

**Materials**

- Thick paper for cover page (cardstock, watercolor paper)
- 8.5 x 11” paper for interior pages
- Scissors or paper cutter
- 2.5 ft. piece of string (ideas: yarn, embroidery thread, twine, or ribbon)
- Tapestry needle
- Hole punch or screwdriver
- Ruler
- Pencil/marker
- Additional: Colored pencils, crayons, watercolors

**Resources**

- See Carson Whitmore’s abstracted drawings and paintings of everyday objects in surreal landscapes on her [website](http://www.carsonwhitmore.com). (work below by Carson Whitmore)
- Learn more about curating and collecting found objects from the Children’s Museum of the Arts Cabinets of Wonder: The Art of Collecting Activity Guide.
Artmaking Directions

1. Design a cover.

2. Cut your interior pages to the same size as the cover.

3. Fold the cover and interior pages in half.

4. Insert the interior pages into the cover.

Bind your book using the following method or experiment with other techniques from the ideas below

5. Make a mark at every inch along the spine of your book.

6. Punch evenly spaced holes at each mark.

7. Draw your string through the bottom hole from front to back of the book, leave a short tail.

8. Take the string from the back and bring it up to the front of the next hole, pull through. A diagonal pattern will emerge. Continue until you reach the top hole.

9. Repeat in the opposite direction back down the spine of the book.

10. When you reach the end tie a knot or bow in the two ends to secure.

Share your creations with us! Tag us: @artspacenc #ArtspaceAtHome
**Drawing Prompts** by Carson Whitmore

Find an object that resonates with you: fabric, wire, paper; a rock, an orange peel, a shoelace, a leaf – something that has an interesting form.

Keeping your materials consistent as you draw, think about new ways to engage with your subject. How can you view this piece from a new angle? Can you physically manipulate the object? What happens when you draw this piece on a different scale? With different lighting?

Find a space to hang your work and view your archive. Here’s some questions you can ask yourself as you look back at what you’ve made:

- What feeling would you attach to the first piece you made? The last piece?
- How would you group pieces together?
- If your subject was an animal, how would you interact with it?
- If each piece was part of a storyboard for a film, how would you arrange them?
- If you had to give each piece to someone in your life, who would it be and why?

**Activity Ideas**

**Found Object Cover**: Design a cover inspired by Carson Whitmore’s paintings and process.
- Go on an “archaeological dig” in your home, yard, or around your neighborhood. Find an inspiring object or interesting artifact to use as a subject. Notice the environment - what textures, colors, and shapes do you see along your dig?

• Draw an outline of your found object filling the entire page. Fill the outline with solid colors.

• Fill the negative spaces (the open shapes and spaces in and around the object) with patterns and textures you noticed on your dig. Think about the type of environment you want your object to be in - perhaps a roll of toilet paper in a garden? Or a cactus in the clouds?

**Bookbinding Techniques**

Experiment with different bookbinding techniques from objects you have around your home.

*Share your creations with us! Tag us: @artspacenyc #ArtspaceAtHome*