

“Altered Books: Making Tangible Our Personal and Prophetic Narratives”

Recommended Materials List and Book Selection Tips

Jesse’s Guide to Choosing a Book to Alter:

- ❖ Choose a hardback book that you feel comfortable altering and that is in good structural condition.
- ❖ It must have a solid binding – glued pages are easier than sewn pages/signatures, but both can work.
- ❖ The pages should not be yellowing, nor should they have visible signs of mildew/mold/deterioration.
- ❖ The theme of the book can be incorporated into your altered work of art, if you choose. I typically use outdated encyclopedias and textbooks, unless I want specific content from the original book. Your book’s thickness is dependent on your plan to include drawers, pop-ups, many doors/windows or imbedded objects. Books with “architecture” should be at least 1” thick. If you would prefer to collage/draw in your book without these kinds of structural features, you can choose a thinner book.
- ❖ Additionally, you are invited to gather important artifacts you want to include in your book (letters, photos, small objects). You may also wish to choose some fabric for your cover. Upholstery weight fabrics without stretch are best. Cotton prints are okay.

Recommended Supply List (Items in bold are especially useful):

- Sentimental or meaningful objects such as letters, photos, small objects, bookmarks, etc.**
- Beacon’s Magna-Tac 809** (cheapest online) –for fabrics, paper, more!
- Lineco **Poly Vinyl Acetate (PVA)** – used to glue several pages together into one “board” page
- Permanent glue sticks**
- Dritz Fray Check – to keep edges on fabric and ribbons from fraying
- E6000 glue
- Hot glue gun and glue
- Bone folder**
- Binder clips/bulldog clips of various sizes**
- Utility knife**
- X-acto knife and blades**
- Ruler**
- Cutting mat/board**
- Gesso – for priming a page for acrylic, or for softening the content of a page (use lightly, with some water added)
- Watercolors (if you enjoy dry cakes, I recommend Pelikan watercolors – either the opaque or transparent set)
- Artists’/Painters’ tape
- Spine repair tape** (white fabric)
- (Disposable) palette paper or wax Paper**
- Mat board/book board
- Cardstock
- Sakura Glaze gel pens
- Micron pens
- Permanent markers
- Upholstery-weight fabrics (for covers)**
- Ribbons and embellishments
- Decorative papers**
- Matchboxes (for drawers)
- Beads
- Glitter glues
- Mini-Misters
- Stirrers
- Artist inks
- Droppers
- Rubbing alcohol
- (Inexpensive/disposable) brushes for glue**
- Acrylic or tempera paints
- Watercolor/acrylic brushes as needed
- Sumi brushes for watercolor
- Scissors – (dedicated) fabric and paper**
- Matte Mod Podge
- Cold wax Medium (or candles)**
- Yes! Paste