Mixed Media

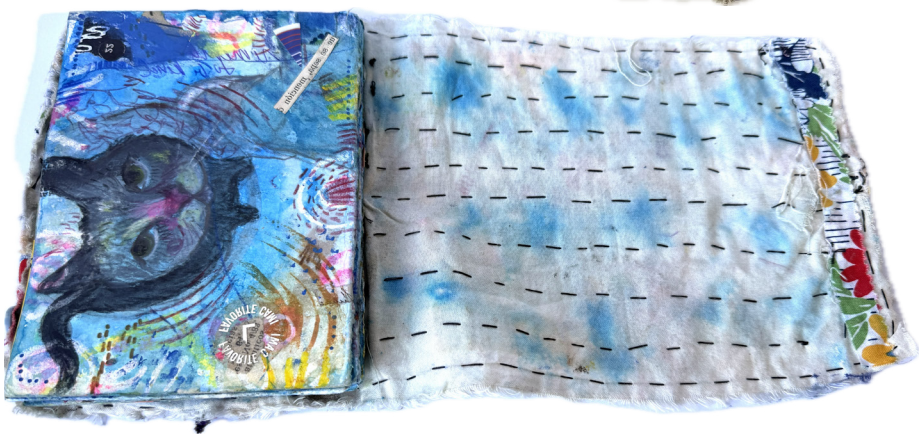
Artist's Book

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Mixed Media Artist's book
Table of Contents

OBJECTIVES.....PAGE 1
FLORIDA STANDARDS ALIGNMENT.....PAGE 2
COURSE OUTLINE/OVERVIEW .....PAGE 3-4
CLASSROOM SUPPLY LIST .....PAGE 5
SUPPLIES AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS.....PAGE 6
RESOURCES.....PAGE 7-10

Mixed Media Artist's book

OBJECTIVES

In this hands-on mixed media workshop, participants will learn how to guide students in transforming discarded materials such as old books, junk mail, magazines, cardboard, brown paper bags, and recycled paper into meaningful artist's books and junk journals.

Participants will explore collage, stitching, mark-making, typography, symbolism, and visual storytelling while reflecting on themes such as identity, memory, community, sustainability, culture, or personal narratives.

The final product will be a handcrafted mixed media artist's book or junk journal pages that combines visual art and creative writing. Participants will leave the workshop with a completed sample project, lesson plan ideas, and classroom-ready strategies for implementation.

THIS WORKSHOP PROMOTES:

- Hands-on experiential learning
- Creative risk-taking
- Literacy through visual storytelling
- Cultural expression and identity exploration
- Sustainability awareness through recycled art making
- Student voice and choice
- Collaboration and peer discussion
- Students who may struggle in traditional academic settings often thrive in tactile, process-based art experiences.
- The combination of writing, collage, and construction supports multiple learning styles and increases engagement for visual, kinesthetic, and multilingual learners.
- The project also encourages problem-solving, sequencing, reflection, and critical thinking while building confidence through personal expression.

FLORIDA STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

Visual Arts Standards (Florida B.E.S.T./ Visual Arts)

Creating & Experimentation
VA. 68.C.1.2 / VA.912.C.1.3
Organizational Structure
VA. 68.0.1.1 / VA.912.0.1.1
Critical Thinking & Reflection
VA. 68.H.3.1 / VA.912.H.3.3
Innovation & Material Exploration
VA.68.S.1.4 / VA.912.S.1.5
English Language Arts Integration (B.E.S.T. Standards)
ELA.6-12.C.1
Develop personal, narrative, and reflective writing.
ELA.6-12.C.4
Present ideas clearly using visual and written communication.
ELA.6-12.V.1
Use language creatively and contextually through poetry and found text.

COURSE OUTLINE

Step 1: Introduction & Inspiration
Show and Tell
Instructor shares sample artist's books made from recycled materials, plus a few favorite books from your personal collection as visual references.

Step 2: The Core 5-Step Art Process
Work one page at a time, building up in layers.

a. Background — Paint & Stain
Action: Cover the blank notebook, book, or brown paper bag with color.
How-to: Brush on a light layer of acrylic or watercolor paint, or rub a wet tea bag over the page for a vintage look.

b. Texture — Collage
Action: Rip, cut, and glue down everyday paper scraps.
How-to: Tear book pages, tissue paper, or magazine sheets. Overlap the edges so no white page shows through.

c. Pattern — Stamps & Stencils
Action: Layer repeated shapes on top of the collage.
How-to: Press bubble wrap, packaging material, or stencils into paint, then press gently onto the page.

d. Focal Point — Word or Image
Action: Choose one bold element to be the "star" of the page.
How-to: Glue a large magazine image (animal, object) or a bold word/phrase/question near the center.

5e. Detail — Pens & Markers
Action: Add final doodles, borders, and handwriting.
How-to: Use a Sharpie, paint marker, or fine round brush to outline the focal image. Add small doodles (stars, lines, dots) in empty corners.

Step 3: Binding — Fold & Thread

Fold: Take your finished pages (plus a folded cover) and nest them together into one stack, folded in half like a booklet.
Punch/Poke: Mark 3–5 evenly spaced holes along the fold line, using an awl or pushpin.
Thread: Sew a simple pamphlet stitch — thread up through the center hole, out through the top, back down through the bottom, and finish by tying off at the center.
Keep it simple: waxed thread, embroidery floss, or even string all work fine for beginners.

COURSE OUTLINE

Mixed Media Exploration Stations
Set up rotating stations so students can experiment further:
Collage Layering: add fabric scraps or packaging textures
Hand Lettering & Poetry: write names, quotes, or short phrases decoratively
Stamping & Texture Rubbings: place textured objects under a page, rub with colored pencil
Symbolic Drawing: simple marks, shapes, or personal symbols representing feelings
Found-Word Poetry: cut words from old newspapers, arrange into a short poem
Peer Collaboration: Participants trade one scrap material with a teammate to help finish a station

Step 4: Reflection & Writing Connection
Personal Reflection: Write down a diary entry about how your day is going.
Poetry: Write a short poem based on the colors used on your page.
Short Narrative: Write a tiny 3-sentence story starring the focal image on your page.
Cultural Stories: Write down a favorite family tradition or memory.
Quotes or Bilingual Text: Write your favorite quote or translate words into another language you know.

Step 5: Walk & Group Discussion
The Walk: Lay all the open journals out on classroom desks. Have participants walk around silently to view everyone's art.

Instructor Evaluation Focus:
Adaptability: Look at how differently each participant solved the prompt.

Differentiation: Notice how advanced participants added details, while struggling participants still found success with simple collage and mark making.

Classroom Management: Check how well the clean-up went using supply stations.

Assessment: Success will be measured by active participation, willingness to experiment with materials, thoughtful engagement in the creative process, and completion of the artist's book, rather than artistic talent or prior experience.

CLASSROOM SUPPLY LIST

- Recycled & Donated Items (Free!)
- Discarded books (to use as the journal base or for pages)
- Junk mail and scrap paper
- Magazines and newspapers
- Brown paper bags
- Cardboard or cereal boxes (great for making sturdy book covers)
- Fabric scraps
- Packaging materials (bubble wrap, cardboard pieces)
- BASIC CLASSROOM SUPPLIES
- Glue sticks and liquid glue
- Scissors
- Hole punchers
- String, yarn, or twine (for tying pages together)
- Tape (washi, masking and packing tape)
- Markers and Sharpies (acrylic markers,watercolors, etc)
- Colored pencils
- Acrylic paint or watercolors (optional)
- Staplers
- Optional Fun Additions
- Stamps and stencils
- Recycled buttons or beads
- Needle and thread (only for older kids/advanced stitching)

SUPPLIES & SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Item	Approximate Cost
Composition Notebook	$2-5
Tissue Paper	$2-5
Wrapping Paper	$3-10
Wallpaper Samples or Scraps	Free-10
Fabric Scraps	Free-10
Brown Kraft Paper Roll	$8-20
Glue stick	$2-8
Elmer's Glue	$4-10
Magazine Pages	Free
Old Books	Free-5
Old Maps	Free-5
Sheet Music	Free-5
Envelopes	Free
Paper Bags	Free
Cereal Boxes	Free
Cardboard Packaging	Free
Coffee Filters	$2-5
Old Calendars	Free
Lace, Ribbon & Trim	$3-10
Buttons & Small Embellishments	$3-10
Natural Materials (leaves, flowers, twigs)	Free
Composition Notebook	$2-5
Tissue Paper	$2-5

Recycled Materials

Cereal boxes | discarded books | discarded composition notebooks | envelopes paper bags packaging | fabric scraps | wallpaper samples | cardboard| sewing patterns coffee filters | old calendars |Discarded small objects

LOCAL RESOURCES - MIAMI

MUSEUMS & CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

- FIU Special Collections & University Archives
- The Wolfsonian-FIU
- Pérez Art Museum Miami
- Lowe Art Museum
- Cuban Heritage Collection
- Jaffe Center for Book Arts (Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton)
- Local Independent Book Arts Resources
- Exile Books
- Dale Zine

SUGGESTED FIELD TRIPS

- FIU Green Library Special Collections (artist's books and rare materials)
- University of Miami Special Collections (artist book exhibition)
- The Wolfsonian - FIU

RESOURCES

- The Century of Artists' Books - Johanna Drucker (essential introduction)
- Cover to Cover: Creative Techniques for Making Beautiful Books, Journals & Albums - Shereen Laplantz
- Making Handmade Books - Alisa Golden
- The Penland Book of Handmade Books - Penland School of Craft
- The Book as Art - Krystyna Wasserman
- 1000 Artist Books - Sandra Salamony & Peter Thomas
- Collage Lost and Found - Giuseppina Cirincione
- Layered, Tattered & Stitched - Ruth Rae
- The Mixed Media Artist - Seth Apter
- Nature Journaling & Sketchbooks

DIGITAL COLLAGE-MOBILE DEVICES & APPS

- Drawing & Design
- Procreate (iPad)
- Adobe Fresco
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Illustrator
- Concepts
- Canva

ARTIST BOOK ORGANIZATIONS

- Center for Book Arts (New York
- Printed Matter
- Minnesota Center for Book Arts

Artist's Books by Maria Patiño



My artist's books explore memory, identity, and belonging through collage, printmaking, painting, and found materials. Layering texture and handmade marks, I create tactile narratives that transform personal and collective stories into intimate, interactive works of art.

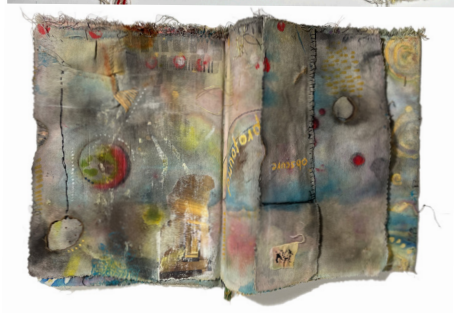
Maria Patiño is a Colombian-born mixed media artist, illustrator, author and art educator based in Miami, Florida. Working across collage, printmaking, painting, and artist's books, her practice explores memory, identity, and belonging through layered materials and storytelling.
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