

"The book, as object, is intimate, it insists on a one-to-one confrontation: the bookmaker and viewer." — Keith A. Smith

**LECTURE NOTES,
HANDOUTS & REFERENCES**
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BOOKS AS ART

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The Book as an Aesthetic Object

Books as art are not books about art but rather are books that make art statements in their own right, within the context of art.

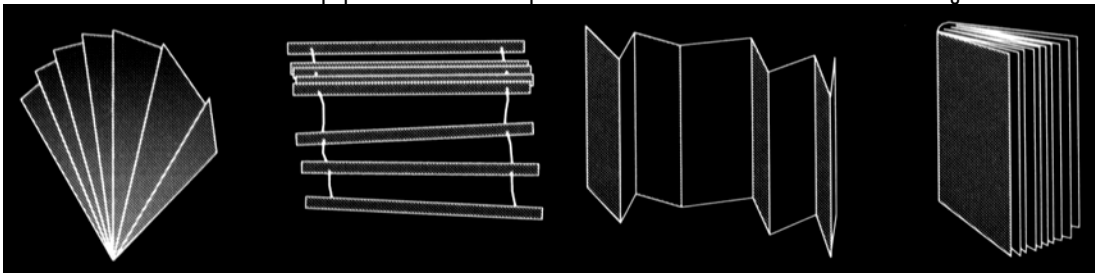
There are four basic book types. All are a collection of leaves or sheets. The type of book is determined by how it is bound or put together.

Bound at one point is the fan.

Bound at two points is the venetian blind. The fan and blind originated with South Sea Island cultures.

Bound across one edge is the western codex. This binding is generally sewn.

Alternate folds of a sheet of paper back and forth upon itself is the Oriental fold book. This binding is mechanical.



Fan

Blind

Fold

Codex

Vocabulary

- artists' book: Work by visual artists that assumes book form.
- binding: Structural form of a book. How it is put together. The four main types are: blind, codex, fan, and fold.
- bleed: Image extended to the edge of a page.
- blind: A book bound at two points.
- clam shell: Storage box for a book with the top hinged to the bottom.
- codex: A book bound along one edge.
- colophon: Inscription at the end of a book.
- dust jacket: A protective paper sleeve around the cover of a book.
- edition: A set of identical books, usually signed and numbered by the artist.
An edition of 5 books would be numbered 1/5, 2/5, 3/5, 4/5, 5/5.

fan:	A book bound at one point.
fold:	A book created by folding a sheet of paper back and forth on itself.
folio:	Folding of a sheet of paper to make two leaves, four pages.
formal elements:	Line, shape, value, texture, and color which are manipulated to create a sense of movement, pattern, light, time, mood, space, symbolism and representation. The visual elements which make up a work.
leaf:	The front and back of a page. Recto/verso. A sheet.
narrative:	A linear progression of text or pictures that tells a story.
pacing:	The cadence or modulation of time in the experiencing of a book.
page:	One side of a sheet, half of a leaf.
pagination:	Leaf flow. Process of turning pages in a direct line from beginning to end.
recto/verso	The two sides of a leaf in a codex. Recto is the right-hand, verso is the back of that same leaf, not the page facing the recto.
section:	Two or more folios placed within each other as a sewing unit.
slip case:	A protective enclosure around a book which leaves only the spine exposed.
theme:	Motif or idea around which a book is conceptualized.

Traditional Binding Materials

bent needle
 bone folder
 buckroom or fabric for binding (for fabric, gesso on back to stiffen)
 davy board or chipboard
 adhesives: methyl cellulose, PVA glue, or wheat paste
 waxed linen or cotton

Material Sources

Books on Books: Keith Smith, 22 Cayuga Street, Rochester, NY 14620-2153. free brochure. 716/473-6776.

Suppliers: Bookmaking Needs, Petingell Bindery, 2181 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704, 510/845.3653.
 Bookmakers, 6001 66th Ave. Suite 101, Riverdale, Maryland 20737. 301/459-3384.

Research References

- Amperсанд: The Quarterly Journal of the Pacific Center for the Book Arts
(the annual PCBA Resource Issue is a fabulous resource!)
- Joan Flasch's Artists Book Collection www.artic.edu/saic/flaxman/flasch.html
- Printed Matter at DIA Center for the Arts www.diacenter.org/books/printmat/printmat.html
- A Guide to Book Arts on the WWW, www.cua.edu/www/mullen/bookarts.html
- Guide to search UC libraries www.libraries.uc.edu/libinfo/resartpub.html
- San Francisco Center for the Book, 300 De Haro Street, San Francisco. 415-565-0545
- Pacific Center for the Book Arts, 300 De Haro Street, San Francisco. 415-565-0545

"All visual books are conceptually one-picture books in as much as the total, not the individual drawings or photographs, is of major importance. Each page compounds time, memory and specific images to create one compound concept."
 — Keith A. Smith