

free creative paper crafts

an ebook on how to make paper
flowers, handmade cards, and more

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altered book art
KATHY BAKER-ADDY



paper is one of the most versatile fibers in a mixed-media artist's repertoire. It can serve humbly as a substrate for mark making or take center stage as a work of art itself. You can fold it or wet it and mold it into shapes, cut or tear it, and apply various media for exciting results. No wonder we save every scrap we get our hands on!

In this free eBook, *Free Creative Paper Crafts Tutorials: How to Make Paper Flowers, Handmade Cards, and More*, we offer four ways of creating art with paper as the main element.

Sarinda Jones is a glass artist who has a passion for all things paper. In her article "Flower Ornament," she explains how to make geometrical, three-dimensional paper flowers, using paper squares, glue, and ribbon. Sarinda's tip: "Thinner paper, such as book pages, are easier to fold, but cardstock makes for a more durable ornament."

Printmaker Sharon Gross couldn't help but be inspired by fallen leaves, which she carefully took home to dry, press, and then use for printing on handmade cards. "No matter where I am, I'm always on the look out for unusual plants to use to print my cards." Learn how she does it in "Nature Print Greeting Cards."

Next, find colorful ways to brighten your custom journals in "Journaling Over the Rainbow" by Catherine Anderson, who quotes Paul Cezanne: "Color is the place where our spirits and the universe meet." Catherine shares a collaborative project in which artists from all over the world took the

same challenge of making a journal in a single color palette.

If you're looking for altered book ideas, you'll absolutely love "Books Unfurled," an article by mixed-media artist Kathy Baker-Addy. In it, Kathy walks you through the process of creating three-dimensional paper art that's worthy of hanging on the wall.

We know you'll enjoy learning the techniques and making these projects and we encourage you to use them as a jumping off point for your own paper art adventures.

Happy creating,

Cherie

Cherie Haas

Online Editor,

Cloth Paper Scissors Today

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MIXED MEDIA DISCOVERY

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An eBook on How to
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presented by

Cloth Paper Scissors®

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flower ornament



MATERIALS

- Paper, sixty 3" × 3" squares (I used a Thesaurus.)

tip: Thinner paper, such as book pages, is easier to fold, but cardstock makes for a more durable ornament.

- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Ribbon, 10" or longer

optional

- Embellishments: eyelets, bling, buttons, etc.

BY Sarinda Jones

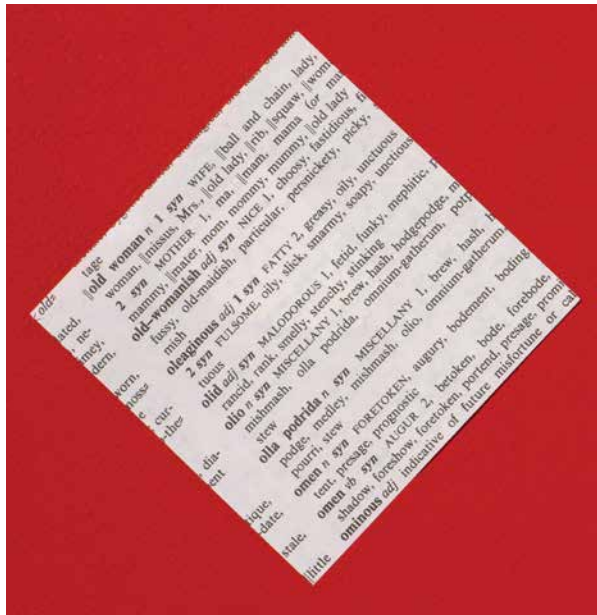


FIGURE 1

The Kusudama, which literally means medicine ball, is a very old Japanese paper model made of multiple, identical, pyramidal units. Most often these units are folded-paper flower petals. I find that the act of folding paper creates a Zen-like experience and quiets my mind. These Kusudama ornaments make a great gift item for a friend, a possible wreath, or a wedding bouquet.

directions

1. Fold a square in half, to create a triangle. Fold the paper away from you. **(FIGURE 1)**
2. Take the left and right corners of the triangle and fold them up to the middle to make a small square. **(FIGURE 2)**
3. Open up the corners of the square to create pockets and then press them down. The easiest way to do this is to put your finger into the pocket and line up the center to make a kite shape with the edge of the paper. **(FIGURES 3 AND 4)**



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3



FIGURE 4



FIGURE 5



FIGURE 6

4. Fold the small triangles (dog ears) at the top of the kite shape toward you on each side so they are level with the edges of the paper. **(FIGURE 5)**
5. Fold the triangles that are toward the center in half on each side. **(FIGURE 6)**
6. Apply hot glue on the outside edge of the triangle and stick it to the opposite side of the second triangle. Hold until the glue has set. **(FIGURE 7)**

CAUTION: The hot glue is very hot and can burn you. Use the utmost care when gluing the petals together.



FIGURE 7



FIGURE 8



FIGURE 9



FIGURE 10

7. To complete 1 flower, make 4 more petals and glue them all together. **(FIGURE 8)**
8. Repeat steps 1–7 to make 11 more flowers, each with 5 petals.
9. Glue 2 of the flowers together joining them at the long side of 2 petals.
10. Glue another flower to the 2 just joined to make a pod of 3 flowers. **(FIGURE 9)**
11. Make 3 more pods of 3 flowers each for a total of 4 pods.

tip: Working in groupings of three helps the process and the ornament structure.

12. Glue 2 pods together for a total of 6 flowers. Take the ribbon and tie the ends together in a knot. Place the knot at the center of the ornament and glue it to the spine of the flower. **(FIGURE 10)**
13. Glue the last 2 pods to complete the Kusudama ornament.
14. If desired, add embellishments to the center of the flowers. ●

AggregateMemories.blogspot.com

nature print greeting cards

Walking through my neighborhood one autumn afternoon, I noticed how beautiful the leaves looked scattered on the road—a vivid palette of red, yellow, orange, and purple, glistening in the late day sun. I am a printmaker and the fallen leaves reminded me of a printmaking process, with its layers of color and texture. As I bent down to get a better look at the leaves, I saw their many shapes, veins, and even some holes made by hungry bugs. I decided to use some leaves to make prints and picked up a few to bring home. I put them inside an old book to dry and flatten, and in a few days they were ready to use. Each print I created was not only unique; it was easy to do and had layers full of texture.



BY Sharon Gross



FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2

Cut the printing paper to the card size you want using a paper cutter or scissors, or by folding and tearing. I used a $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 12''$ rectangle for the large accordion card, a $3\frac{3}{4}'' \times 11''$ rectangle for the small accordion card, and a $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 5\frac{1}{4}''$ rectangle for the layered card.

1. Paint the paper with watercolors to create a colorful background. **(FIGURE 1)** Make the colors watery, allowing the colors to blend and bleed together. Don't be afraid to use lots of colors. Allow to dry.
2. Flip the paper over and paint the other side in the same manner. For the layered card, you will only paint one side of the paper, because it will be glued to the cardstock.
3. Use the tempera paint like printing ink, applying the paint to the texture

tools with a paintbrush and pressing the tools onto the painted paper. Repeat as desired to create more texture. **(FIGURE 2)**

4. Apply paint to the vein side of a leaf with the paintbrush. Place the leaf, paint-side down, onto the painted paper and cover the leaf with a square of paper towel. Gently roll the brayer across the paper towel to print the leaf image, including the stem. Remove the paper towel and repeat the process with another leaf, or a flower, adding more paint as needed and printing across the paper. **(FIGURE 3)** Let dry and repeat on the back of the paper.

tip: Placing the paper towel over the leaf prevents the paint from splattering and also keeps your hands clean.

5. Create layers of prints, color, and texture. Reuse the leaves/flowers and the various texture tools, allowing the colors to mix and blend as you create more texture.

note: The brushstrokes will show in the prints and the prints will vary, depending on how much or how little paint is applied.

6. Fold the long painted paper in thirds to create the card. To avoid ruining the paint, place wax paper on top of the folded card and then score the folds with the bone folder. **(FIGURE 4)** For a layered card, apply glue stick to the back of the printed rectangle and place the rectangle on folded cardstock. Put wax paper on top of the card and rub over the top with the bone folder. Remove the wax paper and check for good adhesion.



FIGURE 3

MATERIALS

- Printmaking paper (I use Rives BFK.)
- Paper cutter or scissors
- Paintbrushes (I use a large, round brush to hold a lot of color.)
- Watercolors
- Cup with water
- Tempera paints, various colors (I use Pearl™ brand.)
- Texture tools (I used bubble wrap, torn and textured cardboard, and corks.)
- Leaves and flowers, a variety, dried and pressed
- Paper towels, cut into 5" x 5" squares
- Brayer
- Cardstock (I used a 5½" x 8½" piece, folded to 5½" x 4¼" for the layered card.)
- Wax paper
- Bone folder
- Glue stick
- optional
- Glue, white
- Gold leaf
- Paintbrush, stiff
- Gold tempera paint
- Envelopes (I used 4½" x 4½" envelopes.)

7. Optional: Apply dots of glue to the finished cards with white glue and then add gold leaf, following the manufacturer's directions. Let dry and then brush off any extra flecks of gold leaf with a dry, stiff paintbrush. Alternatively, use gold tempera paint in the printing process to achieve a shimmery look.

When traveling, keep an eye out for interesting leaves and flowers to use in your art. Why limit yourself to only using what you find in your neighborhood? No matter where I am, I'm always on the look out for unusual plants to use to print my cards. ●

[artist URL here](#)

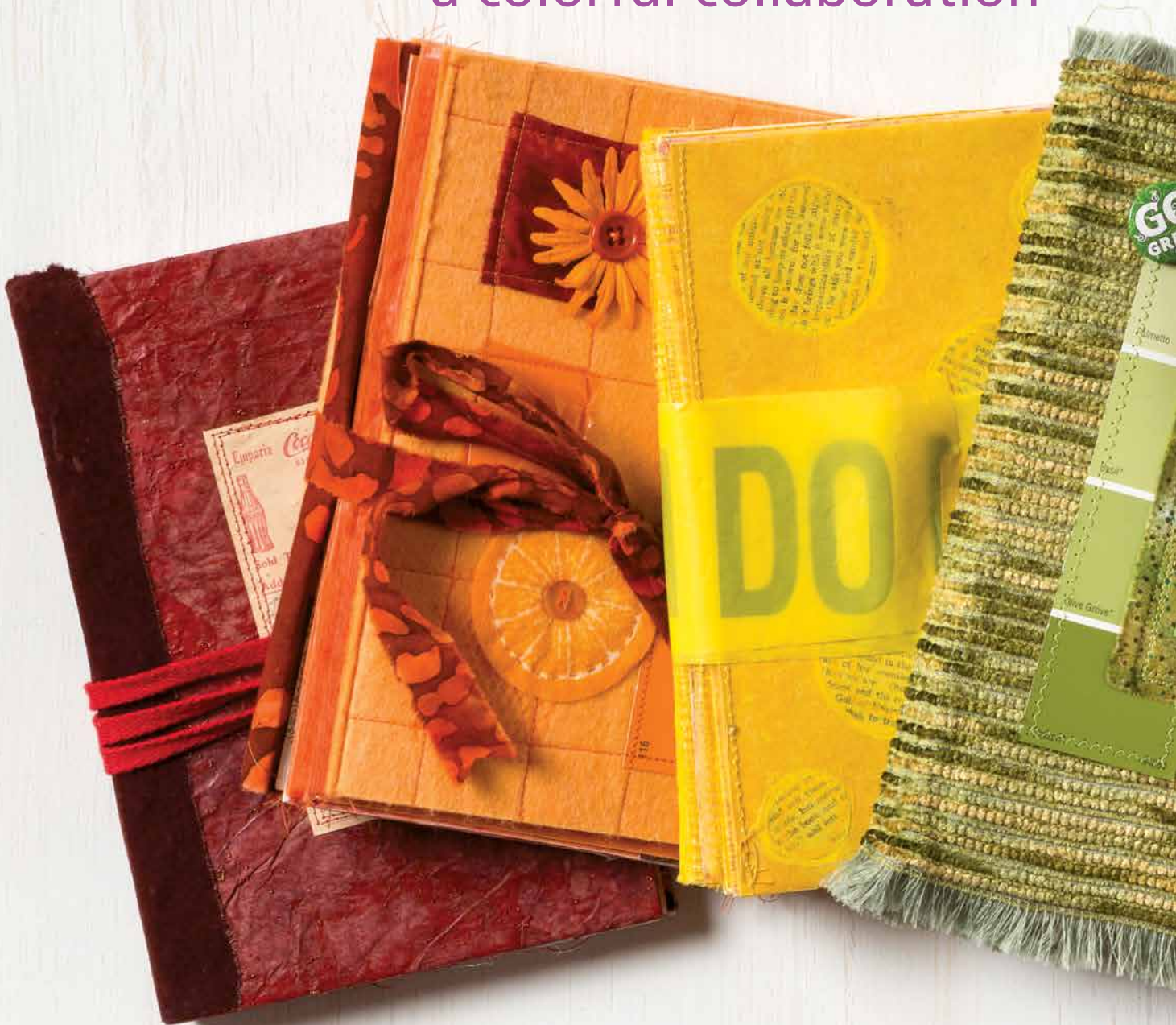


FIGURE 4

journaling over the rainbow

Adapted from
CLOTH PAPER SCISSORS® PAGES
Winter 2014

a colorful collaboration



BY Catherine Anderson

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Paul Cezanne said, "Color is the place where our spirits and the universe meet." So, when a small group of artists from different parts of the world gathered online to create a collaborative journal project, color seemed like a perfect theme. Creating in one color palette presented a challenge, forcing everyone to experiment with texture and shape.

For this challenge, everyone had to find creative and unique ways to make their color page through texture, shape, text, or design. It was encouraging to know that everyone was challenged by this; you were not alone. The others in the group helped to keep you moving forward with the project—even when you felt stuck.

YELLOW JOURNAL

The covers were painted and collaged with circles cut from book pages then attached accordion-style to the artists' pages with mesh and felt strips. This book was finished with a bright but foreboding "Do Not Enter" tape for its closure.

ORANGE JOURNAL

The artists' pages were sewn together, with mesh, fabric, and plastic strips, to create an accordion. The felt covers were embellished with stitching and ephemera and then sewn to the first and last pages. To finish off the book, a long strip of fabric was sewn to the back cover and wrapped to the front to hold the book together.

RED JOURNAL

To create unique texture, I painted the cover and small metal accents were sprinkled into the wet paint. The 12" × 9" spreads were glued together and attached to the covers. A strip of leather finished the spine.



The artists created two original pages for each journal, either as a spread or individual pages. As the hostess for these rainbow journals, I had the pleasurable task of binding them. This was an exciting challenge though, as I had to find creative solutions to hold the numerous pages.

I assigned a box in my studio for each color and added anything I found in each of the six colors to its respective box. Often the colored items would come from the recycling bin, like the bag the limes came in. When the time to create a journal came, I was able to pull from the boxes full of colored papers and objects to inspire my imagination.

GREEN JOURNAL

Fabric pockets reinforced with thick cardboard made a clever cover for this journal. Painted strips of paper were folded in half and stitched to the inside of the spine, and the artist pages were attached to the strips.

BLUE JOURNAL

Blue denim and blue vintage stamps decorate the stitched front cover of this journal, with trims of varied blues sewn onto the spine. Each spread was folded in half, sewn onto a hinge, and then the entire journal was sewn together along the spine.

VIOLET JOURNAL

Each artist's page was glued or folded flat and sewn onto decorative fabric strips. The violet fabric cover wraps around the pages, with iron-on stiffening for added strength. Two stitched buttons hold the pages in the book and accent the various violet trims on the front cover. ●

[artist URL here](#)

Adapted from
PAPER ART
2014



books unfurled

altered book art

BY Kathy Baker-Addy

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COLLAGE ARTISTIC
MEDIA DISCOVERY

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a few years back I found myself in Bisbee, Arizona, the week before a benefit held by the Friends of the Copper Queen Library. The community was called upon to create art using old books for a silent auction. Though I had become familiar with altered books on the web, I usually worked with paint and fibers. Nevertheless, with a design in mind, I decided to try my hand at it.

Since I was traveling my tools were limited, but I got busy with a handsaw and within a week I turned an old book into a vase full of paper flowers. This project opened up my creativity, and since then I have experimented with many different altered book techniques: journaling, paper designs, quilling, and collage. I've also made a different kind of three-dimensional altered book, finding inspiration everywhere—spring flowers, the nighttime sky, even a friend's long curly locks.

The real challenge in creating these altered books is cutting and folding the pages while they remain in the book. I use a subtractive approach, cutting pieces of the book pages away, to create my three-dimensional designs.





FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2

MATERIALS

- Old book, around 1" thick (Avoid brittle books with brown or yellowed pages and/or frayed binding.)
- Particle board (I used a piece about 3" x 4".)
- Pencil
- Craft glue
- Heavy object or clamps
- Nail and hammer, or drill with a 1/8" bit
- Wire, 18" (I used 20-gauge.)
- Binder clips, 6, various sizes
- Recycled papers, for practicing
- Cutting mat, larger than the pages in the book
- Craft knife or small detail scissors
- Scrap paper
- optional**
- Headband, stretchy cloth

the wire hanger

1. Open the book flat and center the particle board on the covers of the book, over the spine and about 1" down from the top. Mark the spot with the pencil, and glue the board in place. Add weight to the board or use clamps to hold it in place. Let dry.
2. Drill or punch 4 holes with the nail and hammer through the particle

board and the book covers. Add the wire through the 4 holes, starting on the outside of the book. Travel along the inside cover to the other hole, exit to the outside, and then travel horizontally to the other cover. Enter the other cover, travel to the next hole and to the outside. Tie/wrap the wire ends together to secure.

(FIGURE 1)

note: Don't worry about how the wires and holes look inside the book, as these will be covered later.



FIGURE 3

the design

1. Turn the book over, gather about 50 pages at the front, middle, and back of the book, and hold them together with binder clips, leaving several pages loose at the front and back of the book. These pages will be glued down later. You now have a middle, left hand, and right hand section.

note: When working, I tend to move back and forth between the sections. Whatever I do on the left, I then flip to the right and do a similar design to keep the cuts fairly symmetrical or mirrored. I do the middle section last.

2. Create a stack of recycled papers and hold them together with binder clips. Place the stack on the cutting mat

and practice cutting to get a feel for some design possibilities for your book. Practice cutting swirls, stars, leaf shapes, and incorporating folded pages. Designs can go up, down, or both, and be small or large. Have several designs bunched together or scatter a few here and there.

3. After cutting, hold up the recycled pages by the binder clip and note how the cut parts drop and hang. Practice manipulating the pages to see where you need to cut to make a page hang the way you want.
4. Go back to the book and slide the cutting mat under about 5 pages. With a design in mind, begin cutting. Be careful to leave the pages attached to the book.



note: Some areas of the pages will be removed entirely for certain designs.

(FIGURE 2) I find it easier to cut these areas with the craft knife.

5. Part of the challenge is keeping the parts that have been cut away from the parts that need to be cut without causing any damage to the completed areas. To keep the cut sections tidy, wrap a sheet of scrap paper around



the section and secure it with binder clips. I often use a stretchy headband for this. **(FIGURE 3)** Avoid unwrapping the completed sections until you have cut all the pages for your design.

6. Continue cutting until you are satisfied with the design.
7. Glue the few pages left at the front and back to the covers, concealing the wire and holes. Let dry.

8. Hang the book by the wire and take the clips out, separating the pages as needed to achieve your design. Let spirals cascade down. Fold pieces, curl others, and move them up or down to complete your vision.

note: The altered book pages relax as they hang, so they will hang slightly lower in the coming days than when you first take them out of the clips.

bakeraddyart.wordpress.com

