

Junk Journal Tasting Menu with MiMo

In this community gathering, we'll take a tour through MiMo's collection of handmade junk journals to answer three questions: **What's a Junk Journal? How can I make one? And how could I use one?**

I think most people think of a "junk journal" as a handmade book made from or filled with found or recycled materials. I like to combine formal bookbinding techniques and found materials from around the house or studio to make all kinds of handmade books, and I use them in a few different ways.

I've used junk journals as a kind of datebook; as a notebook for calligraphy and art class notes; as a scrapbook of sorts; as a kind of art-grimoire for recording ideas for drafts of calligraphic or art works; as diaries; as travel diaries; as sketchbooks; and as, simply, objects that in themselves give me joy. The list could go on and on. I think we'll have some fun taking a tour through these possible uses of informal, handmade books.

This gathering for Pacific Scribes will be more like a demo presentation with (potentially) a group show-and-share, and is not a full bookbinding class. I encourage you to bring your own version of junk journals to the gathering, and if there's interest, we'll have time to share our journals with each other.

We will also learn how to make simple **no-sew** and **pamphlet-stitched** junk journals with whatever materials you have, and I'll show you a few ways these can be finished.



SUPPLY LIST

If you'd like to participate in making your own junk journals during the gathering, you'll need:

1. **Cover material** of some kind. This could be an extra bit of cardstock, colorful cover-weight paper, cardboard from a pizza box, cracker box, cereal box, repurposed cover ripped off a book to be discarded... or whatever you want.
 - a. We won't have time to decorate the covers during the class, so if you prefer to paint or collage your covers ahead of time, feel free.
2. **Paper material** of some kind for pages. They don't all have to be the same size, but they should be of a size you think you'd enjoy when all folded in half (into "signatures") and placed inside your cover. I have most enjoyed using:
 - a. Offcuts from nicer full-size sheets of calligraphy or watercolor paper, like offcuts of Arches Text Wove
 - b. Pieces of bigger artwork drafts that I didn't like or don't need anymore (so again, these would typically be on paper that I already know I like)
 - c. Recycled papers, such as pieces cut from brown paper bags or brown paper that was packing material in a shipped box; drawing paper leftovers, paper bags from 10-lb or 5-lb bags of flour, pages ripped out of notebooks when the notebook is already mostly used up; big mail envelopes I've received; junk mail; brochures...
 - d. You may want to bring any ephemera or smaller papers as well – I'll show you ideas for adding pockets, tip-ins, etc. to your pages



3. **Basic bookbinding kit, if you have one.** To include: metal ruler, cutting tools for paper and cardboard, such as scissors, x-acto or utility knife; cutting mat; pencil; bone folder; awl; glue; piercing cradle if you have one; etc.
 - a. If attending in person, I'd bring a glue stick and double-sided tape as substitutes for the PVA (or other bookbinding) glue, to avoid the mess and complication of potentially not having access to water with which to clean your glue brush.



4. For **no-sew** junk journals, add:
 - a. To bind: Some elastic string (like the elastic in a Traveler's Notebook, or embroidery thread, or jewelry-making wire, or bookbinding thread, or ribbon – anything you think would be nice to tie around the spine and pages).
 - b. A cutting tool you can cut your string or wire or thread with (such as scissors).
 - c. Embellishments as you wish (beads on the ends of the string, perhaps)
5. For **pamphlet-stitch** journals, add:
 - a. Bookbinding thread or embroidery thread or similar;
 - b. A needle that works with your thread, such as an upholstery needle or a bookbinding needle (straight or curved, doesn't matter);
 - c. Something to punch holes in your signatures and cover. Ideally, an awl; if you're using ribbon or bigger thread, you may need a hole punch.
 - d. Make sure your cover stock isn't super-thick – think soft-back book, not hard-bound book
 - e. For a zine-style folded journal: ideally, a bigger 11x17 inch (or so) piece of paper, whether already painted/collaged/decorated, or clean.
 - f. One kind of pamphlet-stitch journal I like uses watercolor paper (can be artwork you don't mind cutting up) and postcards, cobbled together with tape and painted over, to become an under-layer upon which I glue top pieces that are whatever type of paper I like to write on. We won't have time to paint together during this gathering, but if you want to bring 9x12 or larger watercolor paper and some postcards and very sticky tape, such as canvas tape or the stickier types of washi tape or masking tape, we may have time to make a demo version of this type of journal, too.