FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Beyond the Binding: Exploring the Art of Books

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Nova Scotia (October 21, 2026) – ARTSPLACE and the Friends of the Annapolis Royal Library are partnering to present “Beyond the Binding: Book Arts with Jenn Smith,” a hands-on workshop exploring bookmaking, creative reuse, and altered books. The workshop takes place Sunday, November 8, from 1 to 4 pm in the Dugua Room at the Annapolis Royal Library, located in the Academy building at 143 Ritchie Street.

Presented in conjunction with the Friends’ GIANT Book Sale fundraiser, the workshop offers another way to extend the life of books by transforming their pages and covers into works of art. Participants will explore book arts through several projects, beginning with an introduction to bookmaking and a small zine. They will then learn to sew a single-signature pamphlet, a book form that dates to the sixth century, before beginning an altered book using materials generously supplied by the Friends.

Book arts encompass a range of practices, from handmade pamphlets and zines to artists’ books that incorporate text, images, paper, and found materials. Altered books build on existing publications, using techniques such as collage, drawing, painting, and cutting to create new visual narratives. Participants are encouraged to bring personal ephemera, including tickets, receipts, wrappers, or flat decorative materials, to incorporate into their work.

Although the session will not allow time to complete an altered book, participants will leave with a project to continue developing over the winter.

Workshop leader Jenn Smith is a mixed-media artist with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from NSCAD University and a Bachelor of Education in Fine Arts. After a period away from artmaking while living in the United Kingdom, teaching, and working as a psychotherapist, Smith is returning to her artistic practice. She enjoys helping others build confidence in their creative abilities and discover their approaches to making art.

The workshop is open to adults aged 19 and older. The cost is $45, with a 10 percent discount for ARCAC members and library cardholders. All workshop materials are included. Participants should wear clothes suitable for working with paint or bring an apron.

“Beyond the Binding: Book Arts w/ Jenn Smith” is presented by ARTSPLACE and the Friends of the Annapolis Royal Library.

ARTSPLACE is a public Art Gallery that is operated by the Annapolis Region Community Arts Council, a registered charitable, community organization dedicated to encouraging and promoting the arts. Supported through the Province of Nova Scotia and the Canada Council for the Arts.

ARTSPLACE Gallery is located at 396 St. George Street in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia

For more information please contact:
admin@arcac.ca
(902) 532-7069

https://arcac.ca/
Facebook: ARTSPLACEGallery
Instagram: arcac.artsplace

Beyond the Binding

BOOK ARTS WITH JENN SMITH

In partnership with the Friends of the Annapolis Royal Library, ARTSPLACE presents an altered book workshop exploring the creative possibilities of book arts and reuse. Following the GIANT Book Sale, ARTSPLACE and the Friends are extending the life of books in a different way: inviting participants to learn and explore how books can become works of art by developing an altered book.

The workshop brings together a love of books and resourceful crafting, plus a chance to see familiar objects in a new light and discover the artistic possibilities held within their pages.

Bring images or ephemera to incorporate, and wear clothes suitable for working with paint.

Sun. November 8 (1:00-4:00PM)

Annapolis Royal Library, Dugua Room,
143 Ritchie St., in the Academy

$45 ARCAC members & Library Card Holders 10% discount, incl. materials.

NO EXPERIENCE necessary, Adults 19+

Register: arcac.ca or 902-532-7069

Please contact admin@arcac.ca to discuss available financial accommodations (such as cost reductions and payment plans), or to offer a compassionate donation (to cover the cost of participation by a participant experiencing financial barriers).

Jenn Smith is a mixed-media artist with a BFA from NSCAD University and a BEd in Fine Arts, She loves teaching others, seeing them embrace the creative process, and develop confidence in making their mark.

ARTSPLACE 396 St. George St. Annapolis Royal, NS B0S1A0

PHOTO: AGNES LEE, UNSPLASH

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