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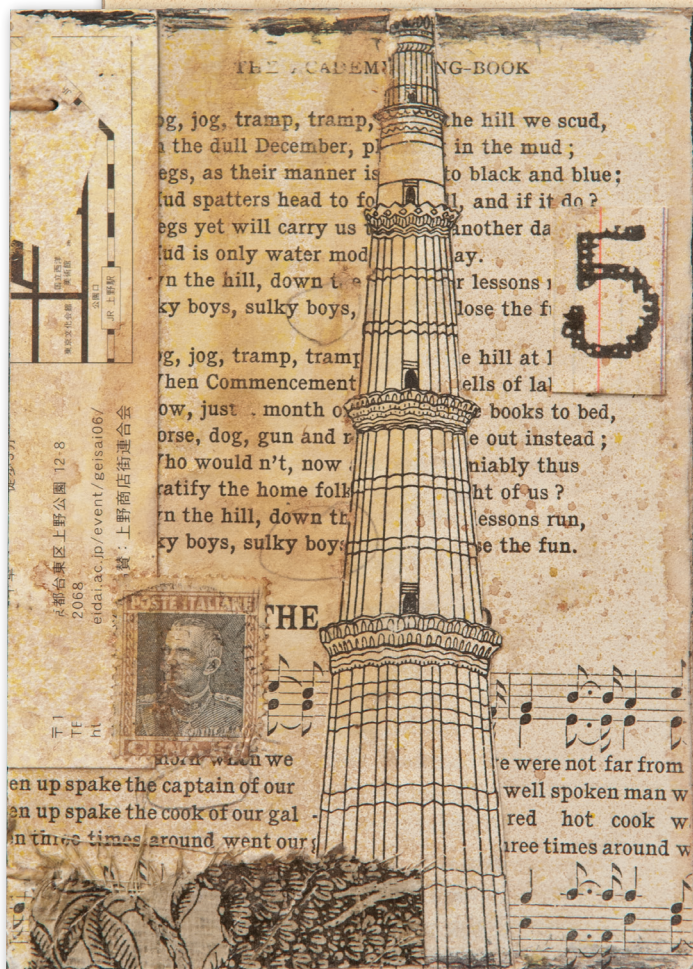
INSTANT HEIRLOOM:

Making New Photos Look Old

BY SHARON PAYNE BOLTON

When my oldest son was about to graduate from eighth grade, I wanted to give him a gift that would honor him and be meaningful for years to come. It needed to reflect on his first 13 years. Given that I already had created many other artist books, this would be a great opportunity to design one based on a theme. When my second son was about to graduate, the tradition was set and I didn't have to think about what to get for him, the decision was already made. When my youngest son comes of age, I'm looking forward to creating his book with the unique photos and relics of his first 13 years. →





Techniques learned in Marsha Shaw's class at The San Francisco Center for the Book became the catalyst for the methods I used for this project. I wanted to give the book an antique look and feel. Marsha used spray inks, as I do, and through experimentation I came up with other mediums to age the pages. I discovered if I use the spray inks in combination with paints and waxes it creates the look of timeworn pages.

TECHNIQUE

Cover the plywood pieces front and back with the papers of your choice using the PVA glue, and adhere with a brayer. Trim with craft knife. These pieces become your front and back covers. Embellish the front cover to personalize it for the occasion. As you are working on the cover, this is a great opportunity to spend a little time wrapping, stitching, tying, hinging, and dangling.

Use the dabber to paint the edges of your covers. Using papers of your choice, now cover the front and back of bookbinder's board with glue, and adhere the papers with a brayer. Trim with craft knife. These pieces become your inside pages. Paint the edges of each of your pages black.

Open a Microsoft Word document and "insert" the photos of your choice. You can now shrink each of the photos down within the Word document so that they will fit on your pages of your book when you print them out. →

SUPPLIES

- Acrylic paint dabber: black (Ranger - Adirondack) Dabber
- Adhesive: PVA glue
- Bookbinder's board: 3½" x 5½" (Davey board) (8)
- Brayer
- Cover paper: 80 lb., off-white/crème
- Craft knife
- Ephemera
- Eyelet setter
- Photos
- Plywood: 4" x 6" (2)
- Rubber stamps
- Spray ink: Bayou Boogie Gold, California Golden Poppy, South Shore Sand (Lindy's Stamp Gang)
- Wax: Inca Gold (Gilders Paste)
- Waxed linen twine
- Wire





This method is great because you can use any photo that you've taken with your camera or phone and make it look vintage! With your inkjet printer, print them in black-and-white (or sepia if you have that option) on the textured cover paper. After you have trimmed them to your liking, you can decide on the placement of your photos and the order of your storyline or timeline of your book.





Glue your photos onto your pages using PVA glue. Finish the layout of your pages with final details: titles, numbers, dictionary definitions, poems, borders, rubber stamps, etc. Lightly spray pages with the spray inks of your choice to give them that aged look. Hold the pages far enough away so that the mist of the spray is as even as possible. Don't forget to give attention to the corners of your pages; rub your paints and paste wax on them to give a timeless and worn look. Let dry. Bind your book with the coptic stitch or the binding of your choice using the waxed linen twine. ✚

TIPS

- Use a craft knife for cutouts on your pages to embed photos behind glass slides to create interest within a page.
- Tiny envelopes are an opportunity to tuck wishes or poems or even more photos into your book.

Sharon Payne Bolton is a mixed-media artist with studios in the San Francisco Bay Area and in the mountains of Sun Valley, Idaho. She shows her work regularly in galleries and shows. Sharon is also a Core Art Educator for "Art is ... You" retreats and teaches workshops out of her studios. She is planning on holding a workshop in the south of France in the fall of 2017. To see more of her work, visit her at sharonpaynebolton.com.

