
Altered Books Introduction

What is an Altered Book?

An altered book is an art form in which artists recycle or transform existing books into new works of art. The book, an artwork in itself, becomes a canvas for new ideas and images.

It is an old method of recycling. In the eleventh century, Italian monks recycled old vellum manuscripts by scraping off the ink and adding new text and illustrations to the blank pages to create a new book called Palimpsest.

What can you do inside an Altered books:

Removing pages

Adding pages

Photographs

Letters

Cards

Inserts

Pages can be cut, glued, stitched and painted

Tools and Materials for Altered Books:

Paint and Glazes

Paintbrushes

PVA Glue

E6000 for heavy embellishments

Gel Medium

Plastic spatula/putty knife scraper

Tape

Rubber Stamping Materials

Hole Punches

Texturing Materials (plastic wrap, wax paper, aluminum foil, tissue paper, and so on)

Post-It tap (thin tape to cover words or areas of a page to protect them
from paint or rubber stamps)

Collage Papers and Images

Three-Dimensional Embellishments (buttons, puzzle pieces, charms,
jewelry, coins, and so on)

Fibers and Beads

Eyelet tool

Planning Sheet[[.pdf](#)] [[.docx](#)]