

Project Name

The Book in a Box

Featured Image



Project Description

Designed to mimic the pages of a book and featuring the publication's photos, [*The Object in Its Place: As Designed by Ted Cohen*](#) is the embodiment of [Signe Mayfield's monograph](#). Mayfield's book sheds light on Ted's approach – demystifying the invisible art of exhibition design and offering practical advice for the exhibition designer in all of us.

Honoring Ted's practice and celebrating the return of MCD's in-person programming at the [San Francisco Public Libraries](#), this project challenges participants to create a diorama of a beloved book.

Recommended Age Level
Recommended for ages 5+ with adult supervision.

Materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cardboard box● Scissors● Popsickle sticks or dowels● Background: Cardstock, colored paper● Images: Magazines, photos, maps.● Writing and drawing tools: Coloring pencils, markers, pens, crayons, etc.● Book-inspired Artifacts: Textiles, beads, vessels, boxes, glass prisms, beads● Adhesives: Glue, tape, paste, hot glue, glue dots, etc.

Image Gallery



Image Caption

- *The Object in Its Place* book and craft materials.
- MCD blueprint and tracing paper pasted to the bottom of the box.
- Collaging interior of box lids to embellish cabinet of curiosity.
- Suncatchers made of glass, wood, textiles, metal, and ceramic.
- Using hot glue to attach popsicle sticks.
- Final product and book.

Instructions

- Select a book for the diorama. We chose Signe Mayfield's monograph [*The Object in Its Place: Ted Cohen & the Art of Exhibition Design*](#).
- Think about the book! What concepts, themes, or characters were introduced?
- Make a list of elements from the book you want to represent in the diorama.
- Create the diorama.
 - Cut out relevant images and use a glue stick to adhere them to the inside of the box.

We selected MCD's blueprint, tracing paper, and graph paper to reflect Ted's initial planning of exhibitions and a map to honor his love for traveling.

- Create book-inspired artifacts.

*Our [*cabinets of curiosity*](#) references the first museums, the hanging textile reflects Ted's belief that tapestries should never lay flat against a wall, and the suncatcher and flashlight signify Ted's mastery of glass and light.*

- Adhere the artifacts to the diorama. Use hot glue to attach heavier objects and popsicle sticks to suspend objects from the box.

We used glue dots to fit together the boxtops of the cabinets of curiosity and hot glue to adhere the structure to the box. Popsicle sticks serve both as a hook for the suncatcher and a ledge from which to hang the fabric.

Creative prompts for more...

- Use your diorama to teach a friend about your book! You and a friend both make a diorama about different publications and share out about your designs.
- Set a summer reading challenge! Can you read 5,10, or 15 books this summer? Make a diorama for each one.
- Take a picture of your complete project and show it at an upcoming [MCD event](#) to receive a FREE Family Membership to the museum!

Related Resources

- Ted Cohen worked as an exhibition designer in the Bay Area for more than 60 years. Learn more about Ted in the American Craft Council's article [Remembering Ted Cohen](#) by Beth Goodrich.
- Ted was a long-time friend to MCD – working with the museum for 17 years before passing away in May of 2021. Explore our [past exhibitions](#) to marvel at Ted's design contributions over the years.
- Hit the books! Join us at the [Potrero Branch Library](#) on 6/7 and 6/18 and the [Mission Bay Branch](#) Library on 6/11 and 7/9 for in-person art activities and to pick up a FREE MakeArt Kit to take home!