**Alphabet Altered Book Assignment**

**Art 2 and Advanced Studio**

This is an ongoing homework assignment that will be completed throughout the year. You may work on it if you finish your other work early, but the bulk of this project will be done at home. Your work will be collected 1 to 2 times per quarter. This assignment is worth 100 points per quarter (equivalent to a project grade).

**What is an Altered Book?**

An altered book is an “upcycled” book; something old made new again. Artists will often paint, collage, draw etc. on the pages of an old book. You might also think of altered books as art journals or “smash” books; there is a little less structure than a completely finalized art piece, and the book is a place to experiment and explore with mixed media. However, our altered books will be cohesive enough so that they can be appreciated as a stand-alone, unified work of art.

**What is my assignment?**

First, choose an old book. I would say it should be at least 8 x 8 inches in size; opt for less than 50 pages. Pick something that speaks to you, but the book could be about anything! You ideally want some pictures and some text.

The theme of your altered book will be the alphabet. There should be one page for each letter of the alphabet. Choose a category that will tie all your letters together; think of something broad enough to allow for all letters to have something different (you don’t want to get bored- this will be your category all year!) but specific enough to be cohesive (animals, food, shoes, plants, appliances, emotions…the possibilities are endless!)

You should finish 6-7 pages per quarter. Each page should have a variety of layers, media, imagery, and text. **There needs to be a significant element of observational drawing/painting on each page.** You should plan to spend **at least** an **hour** on each page. How you structure the creation of the pages is up to you, but I like to sort of work like this: Frist, I’ll apply a ground to each page, usually gluing some paper or pictures onto my page, then painting a wash over them. Next, I will draw/paint my main image and label the letter and word being used. Finally, I will add to the drawing/painting with other media and/or collage/assemblage pieces.

A lot of this process is going to be experimental. Look at altered books, art journals, junk journals, and smash books online (I’ve created a Pinterest board online with examples and ideas: <https://www.pinterest.com/colonelart/altered-books/>). This process is definitely going to be expressive, unique, and will hopefully be a lot of fun! I think if you put the time in, you’ll have a great result at the end of the year!

**Have your book ready and come up with three possible themes by Friday, August 28th.**