Fifty Unique

Miniature Books

Shab Levy
MINIATURE BOOKS

According to the Miniature Society of America, in the United States, a miniature book is usually considered to be one which is no more than three inches in height, width, or thickness. Some aficionados collect slightly larger books while others specialize in even smaller sizes. Outside of the United States, books up to four inches are often considered miniature.

Based on the above definition, all the books discussed in this publication conform to the definition and are thus eligible to be called Miniature Books.

On the other hand, there is no simple and clear definition of what is a book and particularly what is an artist book.

In my opinion an artist book is a work in which the design, form, materials and content take priority over the more conventional definition of a book being a collection of written or typed sheets bound together.

An artist book has a very wide definition allowing the inclusion of many types of art work called books.

Dimensions are in decimal inches and follow this format: width, height, thickness.

This book depicts over 50 miniature books created during a three month period between May and July of 2014.

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Portland, Oregon
July 2014
Miniature Book 01 - The Blank One

Size: 2.25” x 2.9375” x 0.625” Hard case bound, 8 signatures, each 8 leaves, total 64 leaves. Cover is printed paper. Blank pages.
Miniature Book 02 - The Blank - Two

Size: 2.25” x 2.8125” x 0.625” Hard case bound, 8 signatures, each 8 leaves, total 64 leaves. Cloth finished cover, blank pages.
Miniature book 03 - Moulin de la Galette 1

Size: 2.875” x 2.875” x 0.3125”
Soft cover, perfect bound, total 60 leaves. Single piece paper printed cover. Copyright free images of old posters.
Miniature book 04 - Moulin de la Galette 2

Size: 2.875” x 2.875” x 0.3125” Soft cover, Japanese bind (modified), total 60 leaves. Single piece paper printed cover. Copyright free images of old posters.
Miniature book 05 - Mechanical Scroll

Size: 2.75” x 2.75” x 1.75”
Box style, inside moving scroll via two handles on right side. Scroll is printed with 10 images of miniature cat-people models. Scroll is 1.75” wide x 9” long.
Miniature Book 06 - Anaglyph Accordion Matchbox

Match Box style, (2” x 3” x 0.875”) containing inside an accordion style book with 6 leaves, each 1.5” x 2”, folded. Also containing folded anaglyph glasses to see the 3D images which are printed on archival photo paper glued onto the leaves.
Miniature Book 07 - Flip Book inside Matchbox

Matchbook style box (2” x 3” x 0.875”) containing inside a flipbook and folded anaglyph glasses. Size of container is 2.785” x 3.25” and size of the flipbook is 2.9375” x 2.625” x 0.5”. The flipbook has 36 leaves. It is staple-bound and printed on archival photo paper.
Miniature Book 08 - The Flag Poles

Flag Pole Book. Size: Circular base 2.75” in diameter, 3” tall. It has 8 flagpoles, each with two sided flag leaves printed with images of the alphabet.
Miniature Book 09 - The Long Chain

Chain Style book. Folded size: 3” x 3” x 0.75” The chain has 24 leaves printed with numbers. Each leaf is 2.9375” square. The leaves are connected with thread loops.

Continued on next page...
Miniature Book 10 - Random Word Generator

Box Style special book. Probably the most unusual type of my miniature books is this one. Inside the box enclosure are 3 wheels which can turn independently. On the periphery of each wheel is a strip of 3/4” wide paper printed with 30 nouns, verbs or pronouns. By turning each wheel independently from the back, one arranges a meaningful 3 word sentence. Size of box is: 3” x 3” x 2.625”.

![Random Word Generator](image-url)
Miniature Book 11 and Book 12 - On the Other Hand

Book 11 is a double sided book, in other words the spine is shared by both sides. In fact, these two books share a spine but can otherwise be independently opened as the right side of the book may contain text in English and the left side may contain text in Hebrew which of course is read from right to left. Its size is 2.625” x 1.25”

The other book, number 12 is actually sub-miniature. It is a simple folded booklet sized 1.375” x 1.25” x 0.125”
Miniature Book 13 - Open Scroll

Size: 3” x 3” x 1.375” Open Scroll type book with a scroll of 30 original abstract paintings.
Miniature Book 14 - Single Scroll

Cylinder of 1.375” diameter and 3” tall.

This is an unusual book in being a single scroll contained within a tube. It has a scroll with the same 30 images as in book number 13 and as such is a companion of alternate design of the same concept.
Miniature Book 15 - The Declaration of Independence

Size: 3” x 3” x 0.25” This is a single sheet of paper 12” x 12” folded 6 times to obtain 16 squares of 3” each. Printed with the Declaration of Independence.
Miniature Book 16 - Rotating Discs

Size: 3” in diameter and 0.125” thick.

The book is made of two card circles in the style of a rotating slide rule. It has images and text on each small square showing how to make a paper balloon.
Miniature Book 17 - Images from Portland

Size: 3” x 2” x 0.25”

This small book has 18 photographs of Portland printed on transparent film. It is bound in the Perfect Style.

Continued on next page
Miniature Book 18 - Spring Book of Portland

Size: 3” x 2.25” x 1” The book is bound with a heavy spring through previously punched holes in the leaves. It contains 8 leaves with photo film slides of pictures of Portland.
Miniature Book 19 and Book 20 - Puzzles and Solutions

Both of these books are made of separate panels printed on both sides. The content is a partial extract from my previously published book titled Amazing Brain Puzzles. The panels have a graphic on one side and text on the other in both books. Book 19 contains the puzzles and book 20 has the solutions.
Size of boxes: 2.75” x 2.75” x 1.25”
Miniature Book 21 - Hexagon

Hexagon size: diameter 2.75” x 0.25” thick

Eight hexagon leaves are cut from a single piece of card stock. Each leaf is printed depicting 8 types of polygons.
Miniature Book 22 - Fabric Book

Size: 3” x 3” x 0.125” The booklet is made and printed on fabric. It has 11 fabric leaves printed on one side only with text and pictures. The text and images are copied from the Google Gutenberg project and are copyright free.
Miniature Book 23 - Wood Panels

Size: 3” x 2.5” x 2.25” This unusual book is made of 8 1/4” thick panels cut from high quality plywood. Transparent labels glued on each page carry engravings from William Hogarth. The book is bound with black string.
Miniature Book 24 - Book of Brass

Size: 3” x 2.5” x 0.5” Another unusual book is made from 6 sheets (16 thousands of an inch thick) brass plates and bound with 3 brass rings. The images are copyright free from the Gutenberg Project by Google by Robert Louis Stevenson depicting in text and images the city of Stevenson’s birth - Edinburgh, Scotland.
Miniature Book 25 - Doré on Wooden Panels

Size: 3” x 3” x 1” This book is constructed from thin wood panels. The text and pictures are copyright free from Project Gutenberg depicting the story of Gargantua and Pantagruel with the drawings of Gustave Doré. The content is printed onto clear adhesive and this is glued onto each page. Binding is simple string through the pages and hidden on the covers.
Miniature Book 26 - Round Accordion

Size: 2.75” round x 1” thick. This is an accordion style book but the shape of the pages is round. It is housed in a round plastic container. The text is the famous place holder “Lorem Ipsum” in its Latin format.
Miniature Book 27 - The Alphabet

Size: 3” x 1.75” x 0.75”. This book consists of a matchbox style box. Inside the box is a stringed set of the English alphabet.
Miniature Book 28 - Book in a Tuna Fish Can

Size: Round can, diameter of 2.5” and height of 1.5”. The book consists of a long strip printed with famous speeches by 10 famous men.
Miniature Book 29 - Push Pins Book - Emile

Size: 3” x 3” x 1.25”. The book consists of a thin wooden board with an array of 30 push pins. Each pin’s head carries one word to form a short original story as follows:

*Emile was 18. He was drafted to the army. He was shot and killed in the first day of action. He had a mother but no other family. November 10, 1918.*
Miniature Book 30 - Spiral

Size: 3” x 3” x 3”. The book is a single spiral with printed words on it.
Miniature Book 31 - Oil and Water don’t Mix

Round vial with a diameter of 1.75” and height of 1.625”. The book is actually a vial filled with water and oil. There is a label inside with printed words as in the title above.
Miniature Book 32 - Shredded Paper

Size: a clear plastic box 1.5” x 1.5” x 2.75”

The book is actually shredded pages from a book filling the box.
Miniature Book 33 - Clear Layered Book

Size: 3” x 3” x 2”. The book consists of a base and 5 clear layers, each carrying part of an image. The combination of the 5 images gives a feeling of depth similar to a tunnel book.
Miniature Book 34 - Walnut

Size: 1.25” in diameter and 1.625” long. The book is essentially a tiny accordion inside an empty walnut shell, or half a shell. The text and images describe nuts as food as well as bolts and nuts.
Miniature Book 35 - L’Illustration French Weekly Magazine

Size: 3” x 3” x 0.5”. The book actually looks like a conventional book with leather binding. The images came from the old weekly magazine L’Illustration with amazingly accurate line drawings in pen and ink.
Miniature Book 36 - Pangrams Spiral

Size: 3” x 3” x 2.75”. A spiral containing all the English alphabet letters in a beaded form, composing the pangram sentence “The Quick Brown Fox Jumps Over the Lazy Dog”.

![Miniature Book 36 - Pangrams Spiral Image]
Miniature Book 37 - How to Say Please and Thank You

Size: 3” x 3” x 3” clear cube. One facet of the cube is printed with phrases in 27 languages with the words of “Please” and “Thank You”
Miniature Book 38 - Altered Book A

Size: 1.25” x 2” x 1.5”. This and the next 3 books were all derived from an old cut book in different shapes. All 4 samples retain the original spine of the old book.
Miniature Book 39 - Altered Book B

Size: 1.25” x 2.75” x 1.5”. The second altered book in this series of 4 altered books.
Miniature Book 40 - Altered Book C

Size: 1.25” x 2.75” x 1.5”. The third version in the series of 4 altered books.
Miniature Book 41 - Altered Book D “Forbidden Book”

Size: 1.25” x 2.75” x 1.5”. The 4th and last in the series.
Miniature Book 42 - Glass

Size: 3’ x 3” x 0.5”. One of the most challenging books in this collection is the glass book. Comprised of 7 small glass plates, each etched with a different image. While etching glass chemically is not difficult, preparing masks with sufficient small detail and resolution is still a challenge for me. Here are the results:
Miniature Book 43 - Story by Mark Twain

Size: 3” x 3” x 0.125”. This is an accordion book containing the story “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” by Mark Twain. The text is copyright free from the Gutenberg Project by Google.
Miniature Book 44 - The Periodic Table on an Eggshell

Size of box: 2.5” x 2.5” x 3.5”. Size of “book” 2.25” x 1.75” (eggshell). All known chemical elements are drawn on the periphery of a regular sized eggshell.
Miniature Book 45 - Long Scroll

Size of scroll: 2” x 3” x 1”. A scroll containing the same story as in book #43 by Mark Twain is wound on two wooden dowels. These are resting on a cardboard stand.
Miniature Book 46 - Clear Book

Size: 2.75” x 2.75” x 0.625”. The book consists of cloth bound square of clear acrylic with a small window opening showing the word “clear” which is part of the title of the book inside.
Miniature Book 47 - Ashes “The Remains of the Book”

Size: Round container 2.5” in diameter, 1” tall. This perhaps is the final stage of some books burning and turning it into ashes.
Miniature Book 48 - “The Tablets”

Size: 2” x 2.75” x 0.75”. The book consists of two panels made from plaster and tied with string.
Miniature Book 49 - Tapestry

Size: 2.875” x 2.875” x 0.25”. The book consists of images of famous tapestries printed on mull (gauze.) The title page is an actual tapestry.
Miniature Book 50 - A Book in a Hat

Size of “hat”: 3” x 2” x 2”. Size of book: 1” x 0.5” x 0.125”

The book inside the hat is a tiny single sewn signature of 12 pages showing a few fashions in the hat industry.
Miniature Book 51 - The Book of Psalms (Tehillim)

Size: 1.75” x 2” x 0.75” The text block of this tiny book is a commercial version of a miniature book. It is included here because the covers and spine have been redesigned and remade from thin wooden panels with overlayed images around.
Conclusion

Making these miniature books has been a great experience. The project started as a self imposed challenge, to make as many books in less than 3 month period of time. Although I met the challenge I set for myself, I am by no means finished with making miniature books. I will continue to make more and different books, until I run out of ideas. I hope this will be a long time from now.

Although putting this book together was not part of the challenge, I am glad to have finished it withing the time frame of the book challenge.

If you, the reader, have any comments, praises or criticisms, be sure to drop me a line: shablevy@comcast.net

Thank you.

Shab Levy
July, 2014
Published by Gravitram Creations
Portland, Oregon, USA

ISBN 978-0-9815949-5-8

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First Printing July 2014

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