

Papercraft: Coptic Stitch Miniature Books

Sky Blue Workshop
Saturdays, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm
2-week session, October 17 & 24, 2026
Educator: Catherine Robinson, info@robinsonfineart.com

CLASS DESCRIPTION

In this 2-week class, students will learn how to integrate Coptic stitch and magnetic closures into the creation of a miniature book. The focus of this course will lie in learning and practicing stitching techniques, the construction of covers that elegantly hide the stitch knots, and in creating the book closure mechanism. This non adhesive book structure requires few tools and is ideal for sketchbooks making it the perfect project for beginners.

Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$160 / Member: \$165 / Student: \$165 / Non-Member: \$190

**The registration cost includes a Studio Fee of \$30 for all materials provided.*

Refund and Class Cancellation Policy:

The Denver Art Museum adheres to a no-refund, no-exchange policy. If you are unable to attend, please consider your payment a tax-deductible donation.

If a class or workshop is cancelled by the Denver Art Museum due to inclement weather or teacher illness, a make-up day will be scheduled on a later SATURDAY as the educator's schedule allows.

Accessibility Statement:

To request large print materials, a sign language interpreter, CART or any other accessibility service, please email Access@DenverArtMuseum.org at least ten (10) business days in advance of the program. We will make every effort to provide accommodation for requests made outside of that window of time.

Please see further information about accessibility, parking, and directions to the DAM here: <https://www.denverartmuseum.org/en/accessibility>

Materials:

All materials will be provided for this workshop and are included in the Studio Fee of \$30.

What to Expect:

Bookbinding can be intimidating; Coptic stitch binding methods require only a few tools to create books that are not only beginner friendly but often have huge advantages to artists who want to create their own sketchbooks. Coptic bound books do not use adhesives on the spine making them not only easier to build but also allows the books to lay flat when open, making them the perfect style for journals and sketchbooks. With the knowledge gained in this workshop, students will feel confident in making more books in the future without having to purchase expensive supplies.

Timeline:

Week 1

- Quick introduction, explanation of the book structure and closure mechanism as well as overview of a typical plan for a book, start to finish.
- Brief overview of bookbinding tools and terminology (signatures, stations, tools and paper grain). Signatures are pre-cut but will need to be finalized with paper guards and holes punched.
- Students will begin making covers, completing the covers is the final phase, several steps need to be completed before final sewing.

Week 2

- Students will begin by sewing books using two needles, this particular book has a clever way of hiding all knots. The majority of class will be sewing to ensure proper steps are taken to keep tension even and correct.
- Once finished the closing mechanism will be made and incorporated into the covers after which the covers can be finished and the book is complete.

Educator:

Catherine Robinson is a Colorado based book artist and landscape painter. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2011 from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Catherine moved to Colorado to learn how to paint landscapes. Her paintings of the landscape inspired and continue to inform her artists books.

Catherine has shown her work in juried exhibitions throughout the United States and frequently shows in her home state of Colorado. Her work is also included in

the Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection in Chicago and the Special Collections at Denver University.

www.robinsonfineart.com

WORKSHOP SPACE POLICIES

About:

The Ruby Red Workshop is a dedicated space for Creative Classes and adult programs located on the first floor of the DAM's Martin Building. Students can expect a traditional style art workshop with tables and four-legged chairs with backrests. There are a variety of other seating options available. Sinks, soaps, paper towels, and waste receptacles are accessible in the workshop. Restrooms are located in the elevator bay just outside the workshop entrance. Food and beverages are allowed inside the workshop space, please ensure that you do not enter any galleries with these items.

Each class is different and does not follow a strict or set structure, but will generally include instructor presentations and demonstrations, class gallery visits to view artworks in the DAM collections, individual work time supported by class instructor and assistant, and discussion or share-out time of finished works and works-in-progress.

Cleanup:

Please remove all artworks from the classroom at the end of each class. If wet paintings or in-progress artworks need to be stored in the classroom, there is limited storage on drying racks and in the equipment closet. Students must take home their own materials after each class. Please ensure that art supplies and equipment belonging to the DAM are put back in the appropriate locations. Sponges, paper towels, and cleaning solution are provided in the classroom for cleanup.

Classroom Access:

Students will have access to the classroom only during scheduled class hours. Please contact Mia DeBakker, Creative & Public Engagement Coordinator, if you need to arrange entrance to the Workshop outside of those hours – mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org.

QUESTIONS

Questions about class content, curriculum, materials, etc. can be directed to Mia DeBakker at mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org or Sarah Rockett at srockett@denverartmuseum.org.

For any questions concerning your registration, please reach out to our Sales & Service Team at info@denverartmuseum.org or (720) 913-0130.

Thank you for being part of Creative Classes at the DAM!