

## **Book Spine Poetry (55 mins)**

Note: This activity is meant to engage studio art students in the library through browsing and serendipitous discovery. Research has shown that art students have a preference for browsing as an information search strategy.

### **At the end of this lesson, students will:**

- Engage in the library as a place for artistic inspiration and creative exploration
- Experience browsing the stacks for serendipitous discovery
- Create their own art object in the form of a book spine poem

### **Explain activity (5 mins)**

- Today, we're going to be doing a creative, generative activity based on chance, randomness, and serendipity meant to inspire ideas for your artwork and get you browsing in the stacks
- What you create here today will be put on display in the library
- In addition to being based in change, randomness, and serendipity, the activity is based on the artwork of Nina Katchadorian

### **Nina Katchadorian Powerpoint (10 mins)**

- Contemporary, American interdisciplinary/multi-media artist
- Does photography, sculpture, video, sound, performance
- One of her works is the photo series "Sorted Books"
- Show students PowerPoint of examples from "Sorted Books"
  - Note: These photos all use books from the Akron Art Museum Library

### **Students go into stacks and write their own book poems (20 mins)**

- Each student should create at least one poem

### **Students set up their poems for display (10 mins)**

- After setting up their poems, students fill out the questionnaire below
  - Printouts are cut in half to conserve paper
- Labels with artist/title/date are created for the poems by the librarian after class
- The questionnaire also asks permission to use the students' work on the library's social media
- Providing the poem text is important so labels can be placed by the correct poems

### **Students get time to walk around, reading other students' poems (10 mins)**

**The lesson can be expanded by having students briefly discuss their process while writing their poem and/or what their poem represents to the class**