

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