

Altered & Artist Books (EPFL Programs & Exhibits)

Finding aid created by Natalie DeMuro
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Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
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Summary Information

Repository	Enoch Pratt Free Library, Special Collections
Title	Altered & Artist Books (EPFL Programs & Exhibits)
Date [inclusive]	1997, 2006-2007, 2009-2011, 2019-2026
Extent	5 Linear Feet (58")
Language	English
Mixed Materials [Box]	Books, objects
Container	SPC Closed Stack (Stack 9, Bay 2, Shelf 4 & 5), 6 th stack Flat Files
Abstract	In 2007 and in 2009-2011, librarians at the Central Library of the Enoch Pratt Free Library hosted altered books contests. Individuals from Maryland and other U.S. states submitted works of altered and artist books. In 2026, librarians at the Central Library implemented a similar program. Individuals who submitted their works for these programs were given the option to donate their works to the Special Collections Dept. for permanent storage. Along with this program, EPFL hosted an exhibit of book artist Diane Podolsky's work in the Fine Arts Mezzanine at the Central Library, which ran from July 6-Aug. 28, 2026. After the exhibit, Podolsky's works were moved to Special Collections for permanent storage.

Biographical/Historical

In 2006, 2007 and in 2009-2011, librarians at the Central Library of the Enoch Pratt Free Library hosted altered books contests. Individuals from Maryland and other U.S. states submitted works of altered and artist books. In 2026, librarians at the Central Library implemented a similar program. Individuals who submitted their works for these programs were given the option to donate their works to the Special Collections Dept. for permanent storage. Along with this program, EPFL hosted “Show & Tell: The Making of Artist Books and Sketchbooks” (July 6-Aug. 28, 2026). The exhibit featured the works and sketchbooks of book artist Diane Podolsky. The exhibit was showcased in the Fine Arts Mezzanine of the Central Library and curated by librarian Heather Kerner. After the exhibit, Podolsky’s works were moved to Special Collections for permanent storage.

Diane Podolsky is originally from Philadelphia and has lived in North Carolina. Her works are rooted in paper and bookmaking techniques and focuses on themes of nature, agriculture, botany, and family. Podolsky’s work examines “the general human condition” in the context of urban and rural environments.

Scope & Contents

The items in this collection are from 2006-2007, 2009-2011, and additional materials were donated in 2026 when librarians recreated a different version of the program and accessioned the works of Diane Podolsky. There are currently 12 altered and artists books in the collection, and 25 books from Diane Podolsky. Podolsky’s works range from 1997, 2017-2025. The materials used in the “Show & Tell” exhibit are also within the collection.

Materials used in the works include paint, glue, figures, objects, paper, ink, string, cardboard, and other artistic materials.

Arrangement

There are two series for this collection.

Series I: Altered & Artist Books (EPFL Programs) includes the items from the altered books programs from the years 2006-2007, 2009-2011, and 2026. The items are arranged alphabetically by the artist’s name. For artists that submitted multiple entries, the titles are arranged alphabetically.

Series II: “Show & Tell: The Making of Artist Books and Sketchbooks” (EPFL Exhibits) includes Diane Podolsky’s artist books, her sketchbooks, and the materials and ephemera from the exhibit “Show & Tell: The Making of Artist Books and Sketchbooks” (July 6-Aug. 28, 2026). The materials are divided into 4 subseries: “Artist Books,” “Tactile Artist Books,” “Sketchbooks,” and “Exhibit Materials & Ephemera.” The subseries reflect how the materials were arranged and organized for the exhibit. Materials are arranged alphabetically within each subseries except for 2.3 “Sketchbooks,” which follows Diane’s numbering system. The “Sketchbook” item descriptions come from Diane’s own words.

The items are stored on a shelf in SPC’s closed stacks and in the flat files located in 6th stack.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections 1997, 2006-2007, 2009-2011, 2019-2026

Preferred Citation

Altered & Artists Books (Pratt Archives: EPFL Programs & Exhibits), Special Collections, Enoch Pratt Free Library/Maryland's State Library Resource Center.

Conditions Governing Access

By appointment only (443-984-2451, spc@prattlibrary.org). No restrictions.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Items in this collection were donated by the creators of the works.

Collection Inventory

Series I: Altered & Artist Books (EPFL Programs)	Item Number
Artist: booksincognito Title: 2. <i>JC481.R39213</i> 2007	1.1
Artist: booksincognito Title: 3. <i>HF5549.5.M3 D93 2006</i> 2006	1.2
Artist: booksincognito Title: 5. <i>PR6023.A93 A19 1965b</i> 2007	1.3
Artist: booksincognito Title: 6. <i>PZF297.P3C6</i> 2007	1.4
Artist: booksincognito Title: 7. <i>NA2500.57 2000</i> 2007	1.5
Artist: booksincognito Title: 8. <i>PR2358.A2 H38q</i> 2007	1.6
Artist: Collins, Rita Title: <i>As Fragile as a Glass</i> 2026	2
Artist: Matel, Mariza Title: <i>IC</i> 2009	3
Artist: Mauro, Melissa Title: <i>The Decline of Western Civilization</i> 2011	4.1
Artist: Mauro, Melissa Title: <i>Paper Menagerie</i> 2011	4.2
Artist: Melendrez, Felipe Title: <i>Sexuality in the Social Environment</i> 2010	5
Artist: unknown Title: untitled No date	6

Series II: “Show & Tell: The Making of Artist Books and Sketchbooks” (EPFL Exhibits)	Box	
Subseries 2.1 - Artist Books		
<i>A Walk Around the World</i> (2019)	1	
<i>Assumptions</i> (2020)	1	
<i>Beach House</i>	1	
<i>Bedtime Story</i> (2020)	1	
<i>Diary of a Vegetable Farmer</i> (2019)	1	
<i>Prayer for Justice and Peace</i> (2020) [variation #1]	1	
<i>Simplicity</i> (2024)	1	
<i>The Big Question</i> (2020)	1	
<i>The Fallen</i> (2019)	1	
<i>The Herbarium</i> (2023)	2	
Subseries 2.2 - Tactile Artist Books		
<i>Contemplation</i>	3	
<i>Friends</i> (2020) [variation #2]	3	
<i>Neighborhoods</i>	3	
<i>On the Patio or Nearby in NC</i> (2017-2023)	3	
<i>Public Transit</i> (2024, 2025)	3	
<i>Retreat</i>	3	
<i>The Best Dress Girl in Town</i>	3	
<i>Unfolding the Future</i> , additional artist credit, Mark Young ('97)	3	
Subseries 2.3 - Sketchbooks	Box	Item Number
“General musings & Harriet the Elegant Ghost” (2016-2023)	4	1
“General musings” (Nov. 2023-Spring 2026)	4	2
“General musings” (Fall 2020-Spring 2022)	4	3
“Black paper sketchbook. Started as small drawings then I just got carried away with other things that looked good on black paper” (Feb. 2023-June 2025)	4	4
“The Gees Bend/Collage/Drawing Book. There is a description at the end of the book of this sketchbook” (Fall 2022-Jan. 2026)	4	5
“Minimal – in color, format, idea presentation” (Fall 2022-Jan. 2025)	4	6
“Building” (2023-2024)	4	7
Subseries 2.4 - Exhibit Materials & Ephemera	Box	Folder
Email invitation to EPFL staff, 7/11/2026 (w/ ref. images of exhibit)	2	F-1
Exhibit description sheets	2	F-1
Guest sign-in book	2	F-1
Postcard for “Show & Tell”	2	F-1
Poster: “Diane Podolsky”	6 th Stack, Flat Files	
Poster: “Show & Tell” (exhibit poster)	6 th Stack, Flat Files	
Posters: “Work in Progress” [3 posters: <i>Bedtime Story</i> , <i>Big Question</i> , <i>Prayer for Justice and Peace</i>]	6 th Stack, Flat Files	