Art Journaling with Marian

Week 4

Fripparies

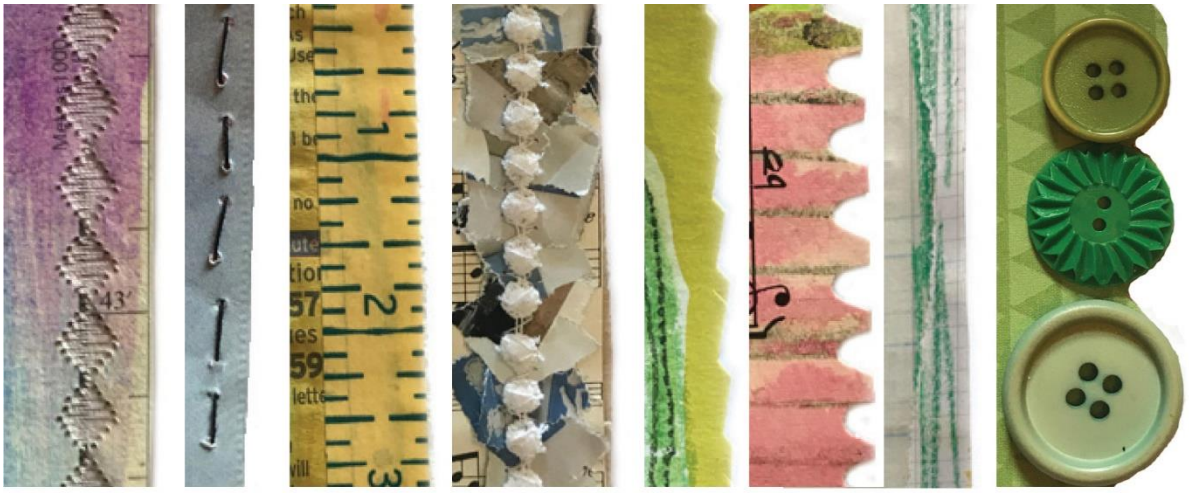
This week we're looking at ways to add more interest and interactive elements to art journals. We'll explore pockets, flaps, decorative edges, apertures, envelopes, tags, concertina pages and dinglie danglies!

Decorative edges

There are lots of ways to add interest to page edges in art journals, here's some ideas:

- **Torn;** probably the simplest way to change a page edge. Once torn, you could run an ink pad along the edge to highlight it. If you don't have an ink pad, pens, pencils, crayons or paint are all options.
- **Taped;** adding tape to the page edge is another quick and easy way to add interest. Washi tape comes in a huge range of patterns but can be expensive. You could use strips of patterned paper (commercial or that you've decorated yourself) and glue them on instead.
- **Textiles;** lace, trimmings and fabric all make good additions to the edge of a page. They can be stitched on by hand or machine or glued on if stitching isn't your thing.
- **Stitched;** using stitch directly onto the page looks great as an edging too. Hand stitch simple running stitch, blanket stitch, chain stitch, cross stitch or any other stitch you're confident with, or use a sewing machine to stitch straight, zig zag or more fancy stitches if your sewing machine has that capability.
- **Snippet roll;** a way to use up paper or fabric scraps and a unique addition to a page edge. Use masking or Washi tape, sticky side up, add torn or cut paper scraps and/or fabric scraps then machine stitch along the centre to secure. You could also add lace or trimmings.
- **Punched;** use an ordinary hole punch, or more fancy shaped punches if you have any, to punch along the edge of the page. You could leave it as it is or thread ribbon, wool, string etc through the holes.
- **Cut;** if you have any shaped scissors or pinking shears, these are great for creating different edges on pages. If you only have normal scissors you can still use those to create a shaped edge to a page. Another option would be to cut shapes individually and glue them on to overhang the edge of the page.

- **Tabs;** adding tabs to your edges to poke out of your art journal is fun. You can make them from card, fabric, lace, book pages, anything you have really! Just glue, staple or stitch them on.
- **Glitter;** if you're a bling lover, you might want to add glitter to your page edges. Just run glue along the edge and dip into glitter.
- **Buttons;** gluing or stitching buttons (or faux buttons) along the edge of a page is another easy way to add interest to page edges.
- **Doodle;** if you only have a pen to hand, you could doodle your way up the side of a page, or even write a quote.
- **Draw lines;** use pens, pencils, crayons etc to draw lines along the edge of a page.



Machine stitching | Hand stitching | Washi tape | Snippet roll | Shaped scissors | Hole punch | Drawing | Buttons

Card (top) Bread bag tie | Bandage (top) Denim | Hole punch | Torn | Fabric trim | Shaped scissors | Cut

Flaps

Flaps are an easy way to add something different and a little bit of mystery your art journal. They can simply be a flat piece of card attached to the page edge using tape or strips of paper or fabric, or a folded piece of card glued to the page. A multiple flap affair can be easily constructed using cards and tape so that the cards sit on top of each other when closed and flap out to the top, bottom and sides. Flap pages can also be created by cutting the page into horizontal strips.

Page edge flap, closed (left) and open (right)

Folded card flap, closed (left) and open (right)

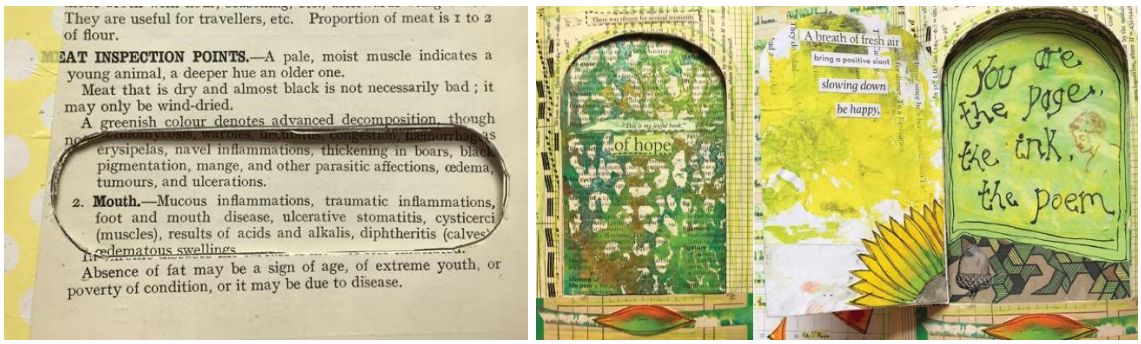
L to R, multiple flaps, closed and open, flap pages and top edge page flap, closed and open

Apertures

Cutting some apertures in your journal is a nice way to give little tasters of what's coming next! They can be small peepholes or larger windows and

whatever shapes you like. If you're working in a journal where the pages are removable, like my elastic band journal, then it's easier to remove the page to cut the hole(s) using a craft knife on a cutting board. If you can't remove pages, you'll still be able to slip a cutting mat under the page to cut. If you only have scissors, it may be a bit harder to cut out but is still doable. You might also want to consider creating doors on a page, to show through to the next page or just to show something behind the doors on the same page.

L to R, doors (closed and open), cut circles



L to R, cut oblong, door (closed and open)

Pockets

Pockets are an excellent way to add ephemera to your art journal that you don't want to attach permanently. Pockets can hold cards, tags, postcards, mini books, maps, tickets, all sorts of things and can be made in a variety of ways:

- **Vertical page pockets;** An easy way to create vertical pockets is to just fold a page towards the centre, glue together and then glue the folded page top and bottom to the page behind to create a pocket. The same method can be used several times to create multiple vertical pockets too.

L to R, vertical page pockets, multiple vertical page pockets

- **Folded page pockets;** Another easy way to fold a page to make a pocket is to take the bottom corner and fold towards the centre, then glue the vertical edge to create the pocket. You can also do this with the top corner of the page as well to create two pockets on the page.

L to R, single folded page pocket, double folded page pocket

- **Page edge pockets;** pockets on the edges of pages can be created simply by gluing pages together at the top and bottom, leaving the rest free to make the pocket. You can also create a page edge pocket at the top of the page using the same method. If you use paper bags or envelopes as pages in an elastic band journal you will have ready made page edge pockets to use!

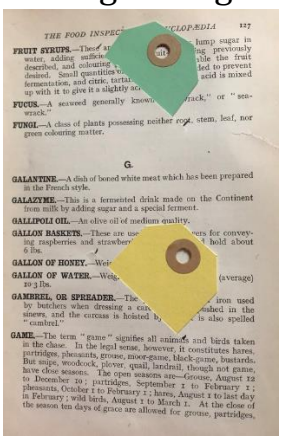
L to R, side page edge pocket, top page edge pocket using a paper bag

- **Corner pockets;** these are great for adding little extras to the page. Commercial, self-adhesive, transparent versions are available but it's

just as easy to make your own. Just glue or stitch a rectangle and triangle of paper together, fold a rectangle and cut diagonally to create just triangles for your pocket, or you could just use one triangle and attach straight to the page.

L to R, rectangle and triangle stitched to make a corner pocket, commercial transparent corner pocket

- **Slit pockets;** if you have a craft knife and cutting mat, making slit pockets is easy to do. Cut your slit(s) in a page, horizontally, vertically or on the diagonal, then carefully glue the page to the one behind leaving an unglued area for the pocket contents.

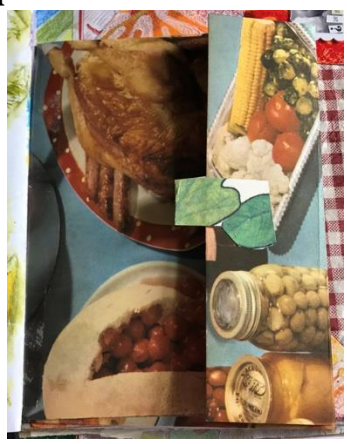


Slit pockets cut on the diagonal

- **Envelope window pockets;** using the windows from envelopes is a great way to make a transparent pocket on a page. Cut the window from the envelope, fold the edges under and glue or stitch in place and then glue, stitch or staple your pocket to the page.

Envelope window pocket

- **Envelope pockets;** envelopes are ready made pockets for your art journal! There's a wide range of envelopes available commercially in all colours, shapes and sizes but making your own will give you unique pockets and you can tailor them to your journal or even theme them, for example, use map pages to make envelope pockets for a travel theme. See the additional PDF for two mini envelope templates for you to try or deconstruct an envelope you have and use that as a template.
  Another way to use an envelope in an art journal is as a tip-in page. Essentially you are adding an envelope as an extra page. To do this, lay your envelope on the page with the non-flap edge along the centre join between two pages. Use tape or a glued strip of paper along the non-flap edge of the envelope to attach it to the page. Flip the envelope over and repeat the process.



L to R, selection of envelopes, tip-in envelope pocket

Concertina pages

A concertina or accordion page is a great addition to a journal and gives extra fold out space to work on. You can make a concertina just by folding a strip of paper or you can construct a concertina from cards or tags and tape. Another fun way to create a concertina is by using envelopes. This has

the added advantage of pockets as well. To make the envelope concertina, lay your first envelope down with the flap open and facing upwards. Your next envelope will be facing downwards. Moisten the flap (or remove the double-sided tape strip) and lay your next envelope on to the flap of the first envelope. Flip the two envelopes over so the second one is now flap upwards. Repeat the process as many times as you'd like to. The envelope concertina can be collaged or painted before adding to your journal. Make cards to fit the pockets or use the pockets for tags, postcards, maps, tickets, letters, mini books etc.

L to R, collaged envelope concertina, closed, opened out and with a card

Tags & dinglie danglies

Adding tags and all manner of dingly dangly things to an art journal is something I love to do! It adds another dimension, encourages interaction from others looking at it (if you're happy with that) and just makes it a joy to handle and look at.

- **Commercial tags;** these are available in various shapes and sizes from tiny to large luggage label type. They are great to add paint, collage, drawing, stencilling, writing etc to and really make them your own and unrecognisable as plain tags! You can buy tags made from lots of different materials too; wood, metal, plastic, cork, hessian, and slate to name a few.
- **Handmade tags;** you don't need to buy tags though, making your own tags is fun. Create your own template or use one of templates included in the additional PDF. Tags can be cut from packaging, postcards, greetings cards, maps, paint charts, junk mail, fabric, photos etc. If you use paper, fabric or anything thin, just glue it to some card to make it sturdier.

- **Repurposed tags;** save tags from clothing and other items you've bought, they're often nice and sturdy and sometimes include safety pins and ribbon which can utilised as well.
- **Free printables;** there are lots of free printables for tags available online so if you have a home printer you might want to have a look at what's available.

Tags can be collaged, painted, drawn on etc and thread, wool, string etc can be added. If you have an eyelet setter, you can use eyelets on your tags but it's not essential, a hole punch works equally well. Combining several different shapes and sizes of tags along with other things makes for lovely additions to your journals. For your dinglie danglie elements, consider beads, paper beads, buttons, sequins, sea glass, lace, beaded trims, fabric scraps, photos, washers, found objects, jigsaw puzzle pieces, ring pulls, dominoes, keys, shells, stones, bottle caps, old game pieces etc. The list is endless, if it has a hole or can have a hole punched or drilled into it then it's probably a good addition!

If you'd like to try your hand at making paper beads there is a template on the additional PDF. Use the template to cut triangles of paper to make the beads. You could use magazine pages, envelopes, wrapping paper, patterned craft paper etc. Find something round you can use to wrap your papers around like a cocktail stick, old knitting needle, wooden skewer etc. What you choose to use will be the size of the hole in your bead. Lay a triangle of paper down and place your stick (or whatever you're using) on to the wider end of the triangle. Tightly wrap your paper around your stick and keep rolling until nearly at the end of the triangle. Holding the bead so it doesn't unravel, add some glue to the free end of the triangle and wrap around the bead until it's all glued down. Slide off the stick and leave to dry. You can also use this technique with fabric. There are other triangles which make different shaped beads and you can find patterns online if you'd like to experiment.

To put together tag combinations and attach to your art journal pages you can use jump rings, binding rings, wire, safety pins, paperclips, bulldog clips, mini pegs, staples, split pins, thread, string, ribbon, wool etc.

L to R, commercial tags, handmade tags

A variety of materials to create dinglie dangles with

A variety of tag combinations

Top Tips

1. Have a tag making session to make a stock of tags ready for using in your art journal.
2. When they reopen, look for broken jewellery in charity shops, it's a great way to get beads, chains, links etc inexpensively.
3. Use permanent marker on staples to make more funky and colourful.
4. Try not to compare your work to other people's – art journaling isn't a competitive sport, it's about creative expression, exploring, playing and having fun!
5. **Remember, you can't do it wrong! There are no rules!**