

Well Read

by K. Faith-Morgan
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The art and beauty of words inspire a craftswoman to create a visual library of literary work.



California-based artist Lisa Occhipinti is best described as a wordsmith. Lisa creates both abstract and illustrative pieces, using the content of books and the books themselves as her material and inspiration. "I gravitate toward books that speak to my sensibilities in terms of their color and subject," she says of the raw components of her work. "I personally embrace a degree of wear and tear." The well-read artist is never far from her source material, either. "I read a wide range of books from novels to biographies to tons of nonfiction," she says.

When she's not reading, you can find Lisa in her studio. "My studio is one of my favorite places to be," she says. "It is a think tank and a

workshop. It is a sanctuary filled with tools, supplies, finished artwork, and, of course, books. I can be in there all day and lose track of time as the light changes from morning to long-shadowed afternoons, then to sunset and night falls, when I switch on the light above my table."

The whimsical "Bookmobile" has become a signature piece in Lisa's artwork, its free-floating form suggesting the flights of fancy and imagination found inside books.

Lisa shares how to create your own bookmobile and other hardback-based pieces in her book *The Repurposed Library* (published by ABRAMS). See more of Lisa's work on her website, lccchipinti.com.



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