



East Bay CMA

WEDNESDAY: 7:00p

Asian Cultural Center
388 Ninth Street, Suite 290
Oakland, CA 94607

THURSDAY: 7:00p

Oakland LGBT Center
3207 Lakeshore Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

SATURDAY: 6:00p

Lutheran Church of the Cross
Back Building, Main Hall
1744 University Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94703

norcalcma.org

crystalmeth.org

TUESDAY??! Kaiser wants a meeting, folx.

- Jan 19 **Double Vision** (with your hosts: @0ftaway & versatile vindication)

artist4artist

- Jan 19 **Anthony Castro** (Fashion)
- Jan 19 **Dominick Hildebrand** (Photography)
- Jan 19 **Aron Ford** (Culinary)
- Jan 19 **Michael Booker** (Writing)
- Jan 19 **David Woodland** (Painting/Writing)
- Jan 19 **Robbie Brown** (Music/Zines)
- Jan 19 **James Metzger** (Writing/Fashion)
- Jan 19 **Tony Garguilo** (Mosaic/Stone)
- Jan 19 **Colin Hurley/Tom Franco** (Painting)
- Jan 19 **Salvador Hernandez** (Illustration/Fashion)

services

- Jan 19 **SUBMIt!!! Finding Your Bottom** (Zine!)
- Jan 19 **MEEtINGS** (stay sober)
- Jan 19 **PLEASURE HUNT** (@ 559 Forest Street)

A4A: Participate in the next It's Still Art!!
Contact Robbie (versatilevindication@gmail.com)
or Jim (jem@edwardbutcher.com) to show ur art.

About two years ago, while walking to Buttercup for post-meeting fellowship, I was telling my friend Jim about how I used to be really creative & had many art projects. I confessed that being motivated to create, in sobriety, was so different than when I was spun out. In the rooms, much dialogue happens about how sex & using go hand-in-hand. We share with each other how we struggle to untangle the two. But I hardly hear discussion about the other side of the coin, how to untangle creativity from project tweaking & get into an artistic flow without substances. I used to have bands, used to have a record label, used to make zines... Today I am grateful to be in a sober space where all the basic needs are met. I have time & resources for hobbies again. It feels like the missing piece of the puzzle is placed, life is complete. There was a years-long gap between hitting "bottom" & picking up the pieces where I didn't make any art. I am happy that this chasm is behind me. I feel like art is important to my recovery, my ability to stay clean & sober. I am happy this art show exists and hope this is the first of many & a springboard for discussions about creativity in recovery.

d o u b l e
d o u b l e
d i v i s i o n
d i v i s i o n

Robbie

Artists and writers have always been tortured souls. Many of the greats were heavy into their cups. Some burned out early while others stumbled their way in to obscurity. Whatever our fate, we are all artists, even the people who don't know it yet. This is especially true in sobriety because in sobriety all things are possible. New things are essential. Our creative potentials are wilder and more focused than ever before. "It's Still Art" celebrates the artist in us all because something kept up going out there. Something drove us to seek sobriety. Something still smolders in us now. This show is about honoring that spark.

John



My name is Anthony and I have been sewing and designing for a long time, since I was five years old. My grandma was a designer and I didn't have many friends or anything much to do, so I would hang out with her and watch her work on clothes. I started helping her with the designing and creating. My first project was a shirt for her cat. It was a lot of fun.

This was in Chile, and my father didn't like for me to work on fashion or designing clothes

because it was not a masculine activity, so I had to work in secret when I was with my grandmother. My mom also sewed and crocheted. I never learned to crochet, but I did help my mother with sewing. Again, this was hidden from my father. My mother and I traded sewing tips in secret.



When I moved to the US, my father didn't come with me, so I had the freedom to create. I started doing drag, and making my own designs for drag. This was helpful because I saved money on clothes by making my own and could also experiment with my own designs. I started using and, while on drugs, made some crazy designs which I don't have anymore. I lost track of fashion for a while, but then got Adelle, my dog, in 2016 when I started my recovery journey. One day it was hot, so I took the sleeves off a shirt I wanted to wear and realized the sleeves could be made into an outfit for Adelle. So, it kind of went full-circle from when I was young making clothes for my grandmother's cat.



What is great about making clothes in sobriety is that I don't have to rush. I used to rush my designs because I knew I had to finish before the high ran out and I would start to come down. I usually didn't have very much to stay high, so was always hurrying my work. Now, I can take the time to really focus on my designs, and to think more creatively, taking time to try out different designs. It actually helps when I am triggered; I can focus on a design and get really into it. I forget about drugs and can enjoy the natural high that the creativity provides.



Anthony C.

- MY FIRST CAMERA WAS AN OLD SCHOOL POINT AND SHOOT AS AN XMAS PRESENT @ 9 YRS OLD. IN HIGH SCHOOL I WAS REINTRODUCED TO PHOTOGRAPHY MY SENIORS YEAR W/ FILM & DIGITAL... BEHINDING FRIENDS CAMERAS UNTIL I GOT MY OWN DSLR THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

- I FEEL THAT MY THINKING PUSHED MY CREATIVITY IN A MORE INTIMATE DIRECTION. BEFORE THINKING I HAD FOCUSED ON STORIES, LIVES, SIMILARITY & MOVEMENT, MY PORTRAITS WERE A BIT CLICHE & STERILE FOCUSING ON WHAT WAS PRETTY. NOW I AM WORKING TOWARD PUSHING THOSE IDEAS BEHIND LIVES & SIMILARITY & USED BODY INSTEAD OF ONE'S FACE.

- THE WORK I MADE WHILE WORKING WAS REALLY JUST METINGING PHOTOS OF STRANGE MEN IN STRANGE PLACES. THESE PHOTOS WERE MERELY DEPICTIONS OF MY ADOLESCENT NOBILITY, THERE IS STRONG SIGNIFICANCE IN THE WORK I PRODUCED WHILE INVOLVED.

- ~~THE~~ INSPIRATION THEN: MY OWN CURIOSITY & DELUSIONS, UNDER MEN, SEX/DRUGS/MUSIC/ESCAPISM INSPIRATION NOW: FREEDOM, SECURITY & SELF EXPLORATION, MUSIC, GROWTH, CHANGE, & SITUATION.

- MY PROCESS NOW IS MUCH SLOWER & THOUGHTFUL W/ SOME PLANNING & GREATER INTENTION.

- MY THINKING INFORMS MY PROCESS BY REMINDING ME TO THINK BEFORE ACTING & TO FINISH.

- SOME EXPERIENCES IN MY ADOLESCENCE: BECOMING CONNECTED W/ MY CREATIVITY W/ DRUGS & ALCOHOL, FIRST COUNTRY, MAKING MORE WORK, & FIRST SHOWED W/ CREATIVE COMMUNITY
DOMINICK HILLES



Baking is often labelled a science, but what's lost in that descriptor is its' status as a folk art. Baking can connect us to cultural histories. Creativity can occur in the exploration of these histories, and in finding ways to combine cuisines.

I began baking as a child. After college, I decided that I was uninterested in pursuing any cerebral or technological career and instead enrolled in a culinary program at CCSF. After one semester, I got a job working at Acme and chose to continue my training in baking while working. There I further developed my understanding of natural fermentation techniques. After Acme, I worked at Arizmendi in Emeryville for a number of years, then left with a few friends to start a food truck, Vesta Flatbread. We built a little brick oven on our truck, made pita bread, and served stuffed sandwiches. After a couple of years of success, we went separate ways and I opened a restaurant and bakery with a Buffy, Nick and Aron's. We served sourdough croissants and scones in the morning and sourdough thin crust pizzas and oven baked entrees in the evening. Nick and I fell out over the year we were open, related to drug and alcohol abuse and the general stresses of owning a business. We closed, and I entered a deep depression. I



worked a number of jobs, as pastry chef in fine dining, and management in restaurants. All of the jobs I had were too many hours, and without adequate self-care, I descended deeper into addiction.



The trauma of my addiction forced me to take a long break from working, and when I returned to work last Spring, I chose to seek employment outside of food.

What it's like now is that I work a reasonable amount and want to cook and bake for myself and my friends.



Michael Booker Bio-

I am currently 34 years old and have lived in Oakland, California for nearly thirty years. I have been writing (seriously) since I was 14 years old and have always aspired to be a novelist, photographer, and screenwriter. In 2011, I self-published my first novel, *Shadow*, which is about about a trio of psychic gay men in the Bay Area. I also wrote and published other novels and stories, while working as a personal banker and a personal assistant for an insurance company, before my addiction to meth sent my life into a tailspin.

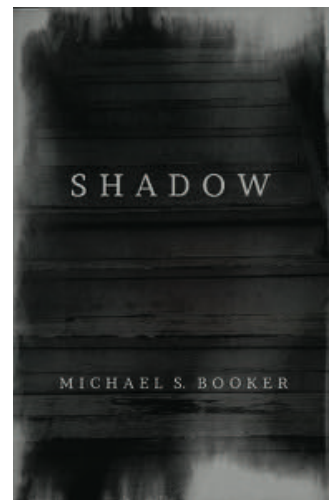
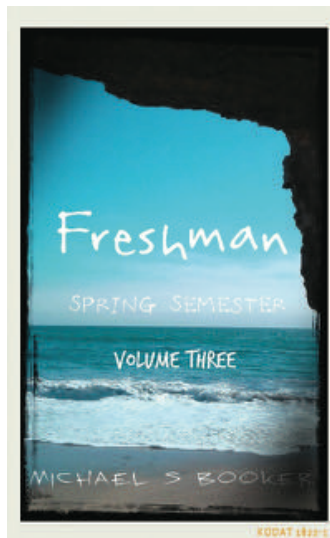


During my active addiction, I was nearly incapable of creating art. I was homeless, on the streets of Alameda and Oakland, for nearly a year and a half. I feared that I was creating so much damage to my brain that I would not be able to write again. During my “off” days from using. My only solace was going to the Alameda and Oakland public libraries, where I “forced” myself to continue writer. I began work on the fifth volume in my “Shadow” series, entitled “Lullaby”. That particular novel represented who I was, as both an artist and a person, at the horrible depths of my addiciton and my depression, as well as who I was becoming, at the start of my recovery, from alcoholism and chemical dependency. In a lot of ways, I feel like writing that particular novel saved my life. It gave me hope, at the darkest period of my life.

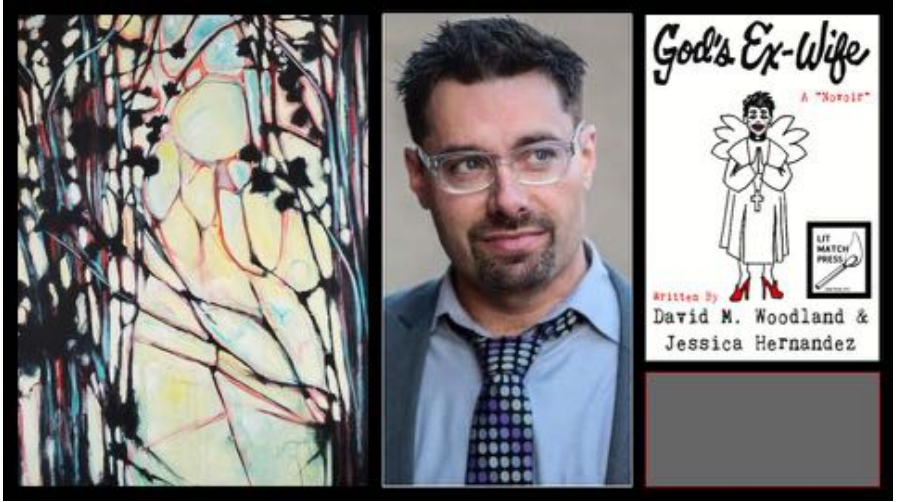
Now, after four years of being in recovery, I feel more confident and more skilled as an artist and a writer than ever. For me, writing has been a refuge and a therapeutic way to share my story to the world. Being in recovery has allowed me to not only reclaim my life, but to enhance my artistic practices. I’ve written more in the last four years than I have, ever in my life. I definitely accredit that to recovery. In November of 2018, I released the third volume, in my gay, coming of age series, “Freshman”, which is loosely based on my freshman year of college, at San Diego State University. I am currently working on the “sister” series, to “Shadow”, called “The Eternal Circle”, about a quartet of disparate witches from Oakland, who are forced to band together, after a primordial evil invades their hometown, which will be available in summer of 2019.

It is certainly because of abstaining from alcohol and drugs, as well as embracing spiritual principles in my life that I have been able to pursue my art with authenticity and excitement. I am grateful to be in recovery and that I have been able to include art into my recovery process.

Check out “Shadow”, the first novel in the *Shadow* series. “Lullaby” is the fifth and most current volume in the series. Also check out “Freshman: Volumes 1-3”, available in E-Book and Paperback additions on Amazon, Barnes and Noble.com, iTunes, Kobo, and Smashwords.



David M. Woodland



David M. Woodland is a New York native who relocated to the Bay Area five years ago. He is a teacher, painter, and as of October 2018, a published author with the debut of his first novel, *God's Ex-Wife*, © 2018 Lit Match Press, New York.

“I cannot share anything I created during my near-decade of tweaking... because I didn't *create* while tweaking! Drugs had become all-encompassing. Nothing else mattered. Alas, it was writing and painting (along with my kids, my husband, and my students) who saved my life. I would not be productive if I wasn't sober, and I wouldn't be sober if I wasn't productive.”

To see more of David's paintings, visit dmartstudio10.com and to purchase a copy of *God's Ex-Wife*, visit litmatchpress.com, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or anywhere else books are sold.

Service keeps me sober.

Art keeps me sane.

Robbie will be celebrating 5 years of continuous sobriety in February 2019.

Robbie is an example that atheism in successful recovery is possible. Robbie currently stays involved in 12-step recovery groups, volunteers for United Streets (direct care for people living outside), volunteers for & serves on the board of directors for the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center, is in

the band Beaus & Eros with other queers in recovery, makes zines (including a queer recovery zine called

Finding a Bottom) & helped organize this year's Bay Area Queer Zine Fest, makes custom jock straps, has a new solo-music project called Hell Hole, & is working on a new art label called

Versatile Vindication to bring all his & his friends' projects together.

Static Stereo, 2005

Meat Muffin, 2009

2002
Sleeping Giant,
my first
ever performance,

Beaus & Eros, 2018

A Girl Hurts Records
2002-2012

Tabling zines

Bay Area Queer Zine Fest

2018

Summer Summer, 2007





adrift amidst the vagabond brother, this postmodern dandy protesteth too much
by myself to be myself if I try in stealth to quell the truth

james edward metzger

I was always creative, but it wasn't until sobriety when I truly learned that the only permission I needed to create was my own. During my years of problem drinking, my fashion sense was notable, my skills as a performer were admired, my 20-minute blunts were impressive... and my capacity to challenge reality and rules was my primary social capital. But I was awkward, uncomfortable, an untapped sexual being trapped in a puritanical hell realm. Getting high was perfect.

While my hours in a room with no ventilation making thousands of glass beads. During these ten minute bursts of creative expression, I could only imagine the colors of molten glass; a certain mystery within a dismantling world. This repetition taught me the value of the "study."

While my drunken processes were sloppy and thoughtless, the 72-hour days in Methamphetamine bolstered my creative urges. Existing within the chaos of my mental, emotional, spiritual, social and sexual insecurities, I left some fairly interesting artifacts. In hindsight, tweaking was the messy conundrum of teenage years I never had.



Coining the phrase "sing song gone wrong" for this poetic style, I birthed my children's book, *Eddie the Nomadic Lemming* during the second week of my sobriety. E-copies are just an amazon search away.

IG @oftaway

I've been blessed with a few publication credits in sobriety, including a piece about my time living in an SLE, "The Left After," & an article about burning man for the *AA Grapevine*.

edwardbutcher.com

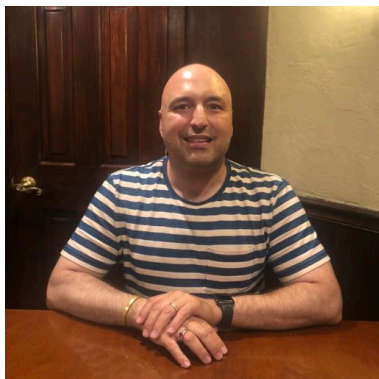
My meth-inspired words mostly landed in two forms: as obsessive poetics driven mostly by rhyme and sound and fantastical m4m and missed connection posts on craigslist. I've always wanted to write, but what? I lacked confidence. Yet writing was proof I existed. The thread of ink on a page: a small echo in the world::A reply from a post::a chance to feel witnessed.

TONY GARGIULO



agargiulo70@gmail.com

c: 415-574-1272



I became attracted to my medium by visiting various ruins, churches, jewelry houses and palaces in Europe. I am especially inspired by the Italian "Pietre Dure" works of art of the Medici's and geometric patterns of Pompeii. I love working with my hands and professional tools to create pieces in marble and granite. I also liked to draw and design furniture, home installations, and jewelry.

I did not create art like this before I using Crystal Meth.

While I was tweaking, I liked work that I was producing. However, I found it difficult to finish pieces while I was tweaking. Or, often I would whittle away at projects until they fell apart.

My inspiration while tweaking was grandiose and over-the-top. I loved using precious gem materials, exotic marbles, and woods for my projects. While designing jewelry I made many pieces in gold that probably should have been made as in prototypes of silver first.

My inspiration now has tamed quite a bit. My projects have been focused mainly on jewelry design. Working with marble is very loud, dirty and intensive, so I have not been able to do that in a long while. I aspire to return to that medium, as I get a lot of satisfaction from creating in marble and granite

In sobriety, I have the opportunity to pick up when I left off. Since getting sober over 12 years ago, I have accomplished many of the "pipe-dreams" I had while using. For example, I finished my graduate gemologist degree and recreated jewelry pieces that were stolen from me in my addiction.





Tom & Colin have a collaborative painting in the "It's Still Art" exhibit.

Colin Hurley has been exploring art for 19 years. He mostly paints cats but he also works

other types of art. He's been collaborating with Firehouse Art Collective for the past four years and has had many successes within which. Colin has many projects in the works. He has studied art a great deal too and has an Associates Degree from Las Positas College. To Colin, art is everything.

colinhurley.com

Tom Franco: Artist Statement 2016

My art work is made up of 80% found materials. That includes the surfaces that I paint on, the paint itself, the large items and the small ones. The things I actually spend money on are more for structural integrity like glue, screws, tape, brushes... all the tools that go into sticking the found objects together. I've now also started to spend money on other people's art, usually anonymous sculptures, that I incorporate into my own work.

I consider myself a folk artist, representing images of the Bay Area California where I live, our shared global culture, as well as scenes of my inner life in the subtler realms of reality.

I consider myself an outsider artist, but I like to say insider artist... meaning that I believe in inventing techniques of manifesting ideas as art. Mostly this type of art is self-taught and often very unique to the individual.

And the third element in my style of work is that of collaboration. I love to work with other artists on the same piece. By doing this my process always stays on the cutting edge of fun, unpredictable, explorative, and fast. It keeps me open to the stories, images and energies that I could never create on my own.

My narrative work comes into play after developing my characters through sculptures and paintings and then bringing them further to life through story, drawings and song.

Tom is the director for the Firehouse Art Collective in Berkeley CA, a space for artists of all disciplines to co-create community and culture, and collectors to buy cutting edge art of lasting value.

There are 6 California Bay Area locations which include various combinations of art studios, group living spaces, event spaces, and micro store fronts for retail.

FirehouseArtCollective.com



E. Salvador Hernandez

eshcetera (ehh-shh-set-urr-ahh) is the creative hub for California-based artist, curator and educator E. Salvador Hernandez. A variety of curatorial practices and art-making processes including printmaking, drawing, painting, hand-crafted objects, sculpture, gender identity, and POC (People of Color) representation are employed while exploring Queer-centric histories, ideologies, and imagery.



Hernandez is a grant recipient of the 2016 National Queer Arts Festival by the Queer Cultural Center (QCC) Creating Queer Community (CQC) program that helped fund the inaugural KUMALICIOUS, a visual arts exhibition depicting Queer bigger men of color inspired by Queer Japanese Manga.

Hernandez is an alumni of both the Getty Multicultural Undergraduate Internship and Los Angeles County Arts Commission Internship programs. These opportunities working in exhibiting, presenting and performing arts institutions across

Southern California include stints with the California Youth Theatre, CSULB's University Art Museum and the Pasadena Museum of California Art.

Hernandez co-founded the California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) LGBT Artist Collective offering a host of Queer-themed artist showcases, social activities and peer-led artist leadership workshops. Hernandez graduated from CSULB in 2011 earning both a Bachelor of Art in Art Education and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Printmaking.

In 2014, they organized the Queer Art Expo at LA's Rough Trade Leather & Gear which showcased over two dozen Queer artists and raised funds donated to the Tom of Finland Foundation.

Currently Hernandez operates the traveling art exhibition KUMALICIOUS and manages monthly figure drawing sessions all over the San Francisco Bay Area. QueerMaleFigureDraw (#QMFD) found its roots through the Los Angeles-based Queer Art Collective (QuAC) as a series of monthly lower cost figure drawing sessions specifically geared towards Queer-identified cis and trans guys. The sessions expanded their reach towards the San Francisco Bay Area in 2015 and continues to grow. Hernandez openly invites anyone to come draw with the QMFD!



FINDING A BOTTOM queer addiction & recovery zine
is now accepting your submissions for issue #2:

“Moment of Clarity”

Finding A Bottom is an addiction & recovery zine that features the writings of queer addicts. This zine aims to create a platform for true & fictional stories from LGBTQ people with different types of addictions; from drugs to alcohol to sex to food and any other addictive substances or behaviors that affect us.

Finding A Bottom includes stories, poetry, art, biographies, drawings, comics, interviews and photography.

Finding A Bottom is all-inclusive. The only requirement is to identify as LGBTQ, with a life that has been touched by addiction, & a desire to share your stories and art. The goal is to include all types of LGBTQ voices, sharing our stories of hope, as well as our struggles. Contributors range from people in recovery, people still struggling, people who embrace 12-step programs (AA, NA, CMA, CODA, SLAA, OA, FA ...), other programs (Life Ring, Refuge Recovery,) and other methods like harm reduction, as well as people who don't utilize recovery programs.

Our vision is to offer an honest, unfiltered look into the spectrum of LGBTQ people & their addictions.

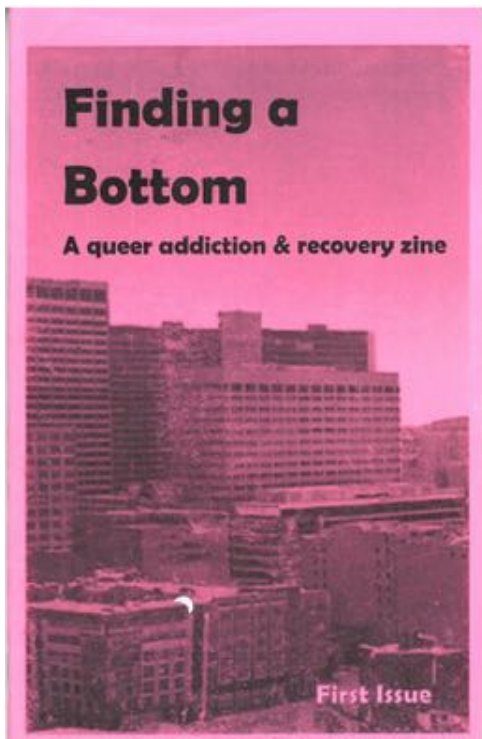
The theme for issue #2 is “A Moment of Clarity.” We welcome all creative work exploring this theme. Email submissions & questions to:

VersatileVindication@gmail.com

Copies of Issue #1 are available.

Finding A Bottom is free for queers & addicts, and \$2 for cis-het men not in recovery or addiction (to help cover our production costs.)

We do not claim to represent any specific recovery program.



Finding A Bottom & It's Still Art are produced in collaboration by **Oft Away & Versatile Vindication**. Contact us with new ideas & to participate!

The Tweaker
Art Show
Experimental
Interactive
Pleasure Hunt

How many
rabbits are in
the kitchen?

Help make a
mini-zine: Add
your touch to
the 4 collages.

1. Find the flashlight
on the stove.
2. Use it to peer out
the window
3. What do you see?

Make a jewelry or
craft item for yourself,
or as a gift for
someone else, using
the excessive amount
of glass beads here.

Play Pin the Peepers
on the Peeker.

1. Write name on eyes
2. check for shadows
3. blindfold self
4. get dizzy
5. pin eyes on shadow

Garbage Pail Kids

1. Referee tapes
GPK onto back.
2. Find your "twin"
using rules from
20 questions

1. Learn how to make
a button.
2. Make a button from
the cover.
3. Teach someone to
make button.