

# Leave Your Mark

Community Book Project

## Forsyth County Public Library

[www.forsythlibrary.org](http://www.forsythlibrary.org)

336-703-2665

**Books:** The books are artist's sketchbooks: blank pages, bound with black covers, in a variety of sizes and available at any art or craft supply store. They generally cost between \$8.00 and \$20.00. Our teen books are Moleskine sketch journals and are smaller in size and a little more expensive. Our initial group of 21 books cost \$200.00.

**Art supplies:** Additional supplies are only needed if you wish to have the books used within the library or at a program where they are featured. Otherwise the people who check them out choose their mediums. Supplies may be as simple or as sophisticated as you wish. We generally use the art materials we keep on hand in the Children's Room.

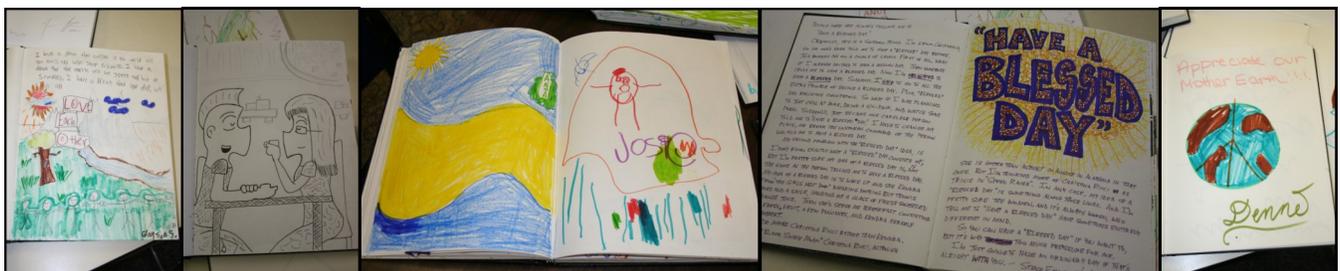


**Rules:** We wanted the books to remain open to expression and experimentation so we did not want to have too many rules in place. We only have reminders on the bookplates to respect the creative contributions of others, and to honor the integrity of the book itself by not adding 3-dimensional materials which could harm the binding. We did not make any statement regarding appropriateness of subject matter or language. The themes of the book were chosen to be open ended and to simply serve as a starting point for expression. Hopefully within the system we have provided enough range to accommodate a myriad of ideas.



**Cataloging/Circulation:** The books are cataloged like any other circulating book and their Dewey number reflects the theme of the book. They check out for two weeks at a time. They are searchable in our OPAC and may be placed on hold. Our plan is to add each book to our North Carolina Room collection once all the pages have been filled. We considered adding the artists' names as added authors to the bib record. This proved too unwieldy for us to accomplish, but still feel that it would add another level of engagement if the creative additions by people in our library community were searchable.

**Display:** We have found that creating a display of the books along with supporting materials in each department where the books reside, to be the most effective way to make an impact. The books are available to anyone to check out, but common sense determined that the books would have to be located specifically in adult, teen, and children's areas in order to assure that the books stayed spread throughout the library in an equitable way.



Claire Sambrook and Dr. Maureen O'Neill originated Visual Libraries in Portsmouth UK. In addition to the books, preserving and displaying the artwork via various technologies is an important part of their project. You can learn more about their concept and see the artwork by visiting their blog and flickr account.

<http://www.visuallibraries.com/vl/>  
<http://www.flickr.com/groups/visuallibraries/>