

Otis Faculty Development Grant Report – June 2015

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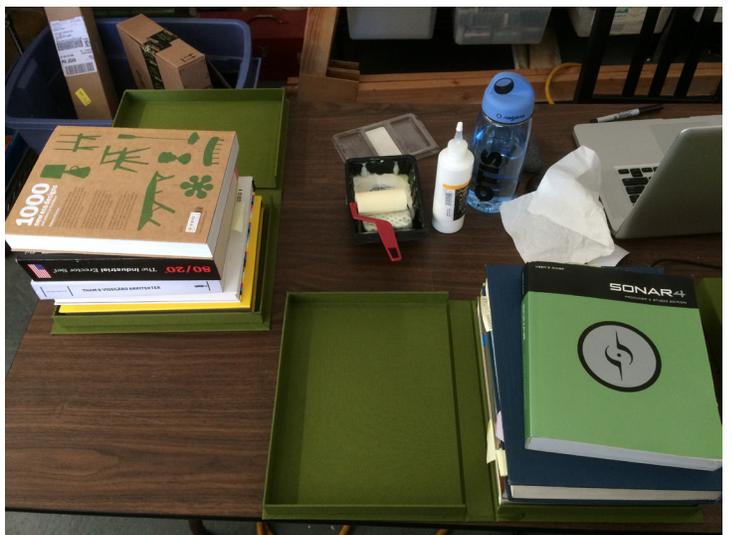
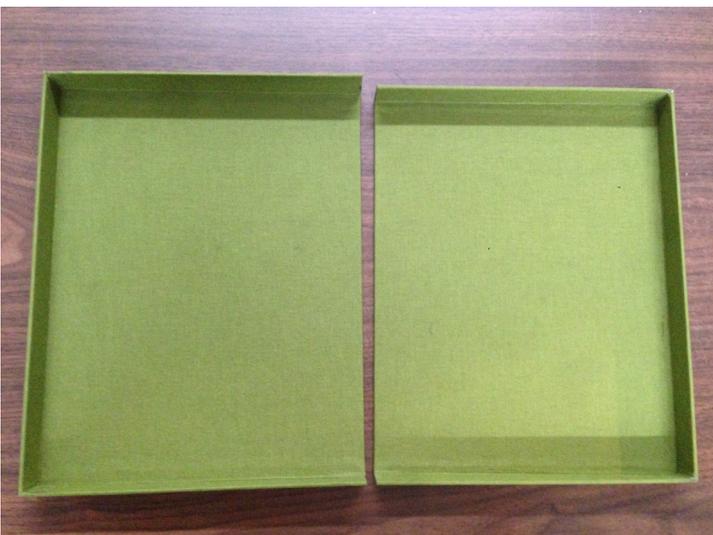
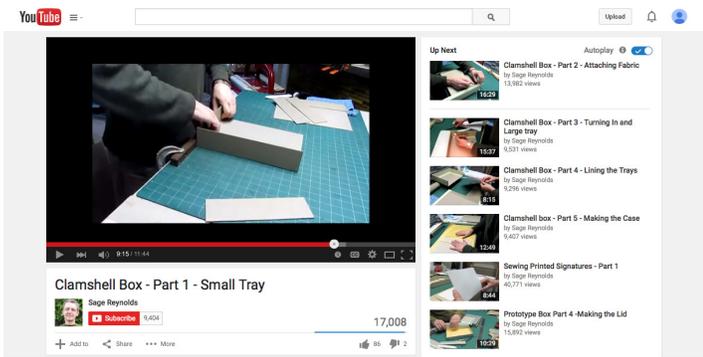
In Fall 2014 I received a Faculty Development Grant, which funded the purchase of bookmaking supplies (primarily binders board, book cloth, a bone folder and PVA glue) in order to produce two small editions of clamshell boxes to archive a socially engaged project and ephemera from an artist residency.

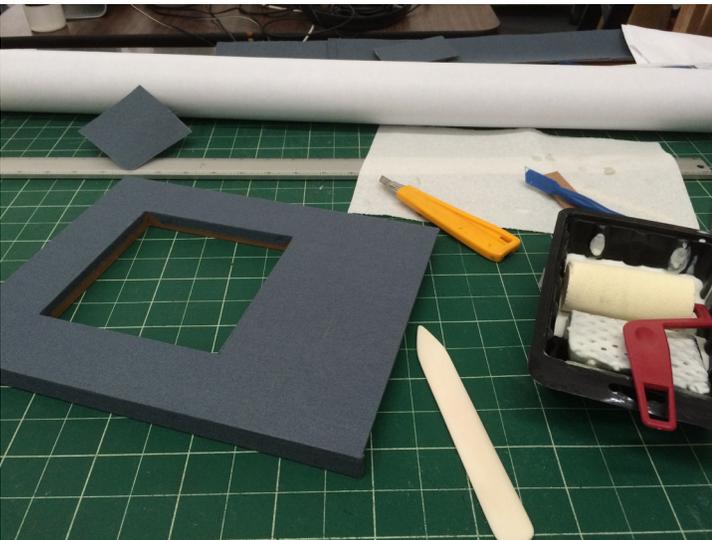
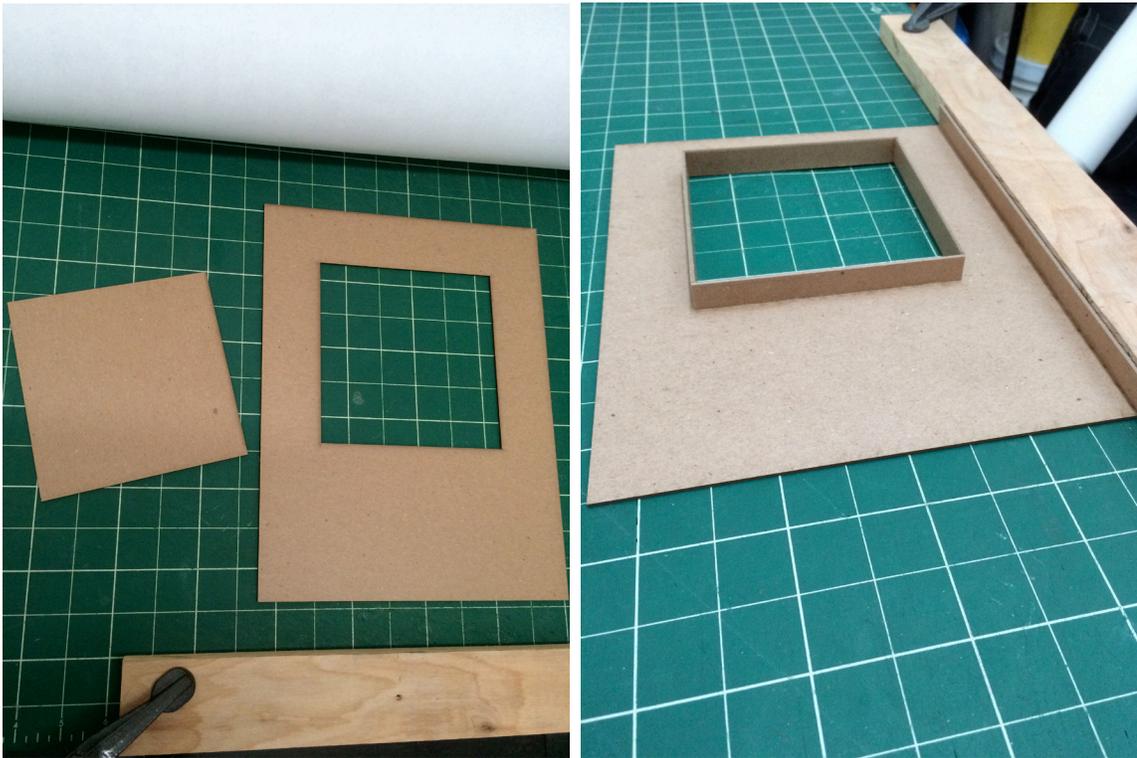


Language Lessons (left), was a socially engaged performance from 2010-11 in which eight different people taught me how to say “I have to tell you something, but I don’t know how” in Japanese, German, Thai, Armenian, Korean, Farsi, Spanish and Hebrew. Each lesson was videotaped in its entirety, which resulted in close to seven hours of unedited video. A collector is interested in purchasing this piece and we agreed I would make a limited edition package to hold the eight DVD’s, printed video stills, and notes made during the lessons.

Rise Industries at ICI (right) is a collection of documentation and ephemera from my 2011 residency at the Institute of Cultural Inquiry as part of the artist collective Rise Industries. During this residency we focused on investigating the ways in which we collaborate and communicate across various time zones (PST, EST, IST and an invented Metric Standard Time). The collection includes documentation of our collective research, typed and handwritten notes, digital prints of artwork made while on residency, and the publicity materials for our exhibition.

I started this project by meeting with Otis Book Arts faculty, Rebecca Chamlee, who gave me the handouts that she gives to students learning to make clamshell boxes. She also sent me to YouTube to watch tutorial videos by Sage Reynolds (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIwXicJ9__w), which proved to be very helpful as I could follow along and repeat parts of the videos as I built the boxes. Once I realized that the paper cutter was more precise than trying to cut the binders board with a ruler and matt knife, I cut all the box pieces in the Otis Lab Press and assembled them in my studio. In late summer when it was exceptionally hot in my studio I kept finding that the glue was drying before I could finish wrapping each piece of book cloth around the boxes. Linda Dare, Otis Lab Press Technician, gave me some methylcellulose to mix with the glue and loaned me some glue paddles, which helped fill in tiny spots that needed more glue. Linda also gave me the idea to have the DVD insert hole laser cut instead of trying to cut it out by hand.





I greatly appreciate the opportunity that this Faculty Grant has afforded me. Because of this project I have been able to develop appropriate ways to archive complex projects, translating them into new forms that are more collectable than their original form. Also I really enjoyed making these. As someone who was trained as a sculptor, but often works in digital video and social practices, I find it rewarding to get back to making physical objects every once in a while. The technical skills I learned brought me back to when I used to teach Form and Space (think 6" cube), but also helped me learn more about Book Arts, one of the new minors that I oversee at Otis.

Because of my simultaneous complicated pregnancy and an earlier maternity leave than anticipated, this project was put on hold several times in the past year and was finally completed in June 2015. Now that the boxes are finished I will keep one of each edition and give one of *Language Lessons* to the Otis Library's artist book collection and one of *Rise Industries at ICI* to the Institute of Cultural Inquiry's library. Sarah Rushford, Boston based artist, writer and collector, will purchase the third of each edition. I look forward to sharing these with the Lab Press faculty and staff as well as other Otis colleagues and Book Arts Minor students.

more at: <http://www.michelejaquis.com/projects/installations/> and
<http://www.michelejaquis.com/recent-projects/100108-rise-industries-at-ici/>