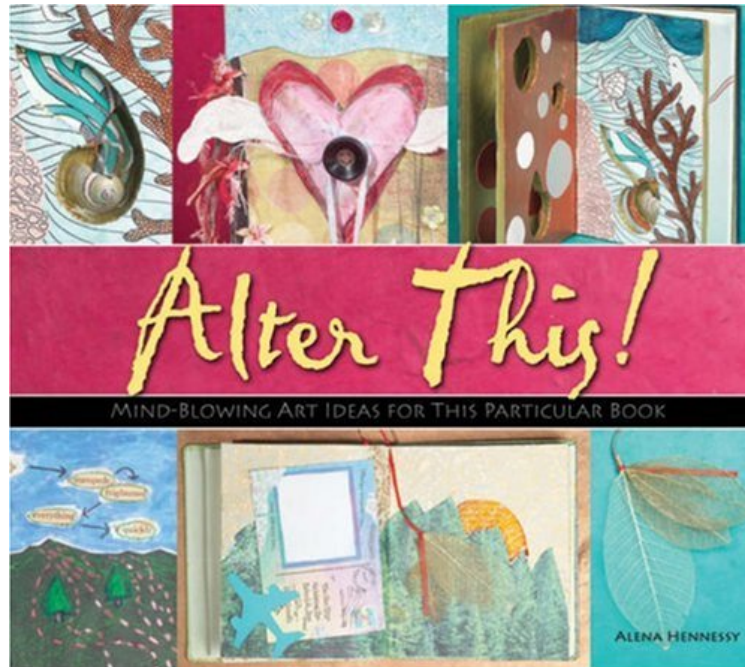


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## Alter This!: Radical Ideas for Transforming Books Into Art

Alena Hennessy

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**Alena Hennessy : Alter This!: Radical Ideas for Transforming Books Into Art** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Alter This!: Radical Ideas for Transforming Books Into Art:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Debra F.Love this book4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. great art book for kids/ classroomsBy Kimberly AshbrookI love this book and the ideas/ art behind altered books. I initially found this book in a children's museum- and then purchased it at . The book captures art ideas that are child appropriate- and with a little imagination can be adapted to any age. It has great literacy potential too. I ended up giving a copy to a new teacher who is going on to teach elementary school. I love this book.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Fun, Unique and InnovativeBy Andrew BowersMy two girls bought this book and they totally love it. I actually found myself being drawn into the projects as well, as they are original and creatively a step above from other crafty kids books I have seen. Highly recommended.

Take this book and remake it! Introducing the first guide that not only teaches kids the basics of altered art, but is the very material for creating those personal pieces. That's because this volume, along with dozens of others, is an art project just waiting to happen. With irreverent text and beautiful photography and techniques such as stitching, image transferring, and cutting, *Alter This!* shows children how to turn telephone, picture, and even those boring grammar books into something exciting. Budding artists will decorate pages with collage, paint, stamps, pockets, and pop ups, and transform entire tomes into shadow boxes, picture frames, purses, or tools for passing notes in the hallway. Kids will want to own this book and make it their own, too!

From School Library Journal Grade 7 Up Altered books are a hot craft trend, and this is the first how-to book on the subject for a young audience. The author starts with how to find materials (don't use library books), background preparation, a few words on design, and tools and materials. Appropriate warnings are given for using a craft knife and a box cutter. The bulk of the book consists of 39 techniques and projects ranging from collage to stamping, from using words already in the book to create poetry to making a purse or a clock. The step-by-step directions are clearly written, and the examples shown are accessible to teens, unlike some of those in books for adults. Creative crafters looking for more sophisticated techniques might try Barbara Matthiessen's *Altered Book Collage* (Sterling, 2005) or Holly Harrison's *Altered Books, Collaborative Journals, and Other Adventures in Bookmaking* (Rockport, 2003). Using discarded volumes after weeding to make altered books could be a great teen program. Nancy Kunz, Tuckahoe Public Library, NY Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.