

Book in a Cage



Libro-Seme (Seed-Book)



Book in a Cage, 1981

Libro-Seme (Seed-Book), 1983

## Visual Literacy

Whether reinterpreting a favorite work of art or reimagining the traditional book structure, Italian multimedia artist **Elisabetta Gut (b. 1934)** creates unique objects that require close looking, rather than reading, to construct meaning.

### Take a closer look

The artist challenges our assumptions about language and accessibility. Peer through the open door or into the seed and consider what you are able to glean.

### Something to talk about

Gut's pieces are categorized as artists' books, yet we do not interact with them as we would with conventional texts. How do they compare to more traditional formats? How does that influence your ideas about books in general?

### In her own words

"During World War II my parents sent me to Switzerland... when I returned to my family in Rome, I was confused and had difficulty communicating with people. All I wanted to do was... escape into the realm of imagination."

Elisabetta Gut, *Book in a Cage*, 1981; Wood, wire, and French-Italian pocket dictionary; 7½ x 4⅝ x 4⅝ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of the artist; Photograph by Lee Stalworth

Elisabetta Gut, *Libro-Seme (Seed-Book)*, 1983; Tropical fruit and pages of musical notes on Japanese paper; 3¼ x 3½ x 3 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of the artist; Photograph by Lee Stalworth

