

M. L. Van Nice

Swiss Army Book



Dinner with Mr. Dewey



Swiss Army Book, 1990

Dinner with Mr. Dewey, 2002

Double Booked

M. L. Van Nice (b. 1945) considers her artist's books "installations writ small." While some function as books, others are sculptures inspired by publications. She aims to challenge viewers' preconceptions about knowledge and systems of classification.

Take a closer look

Van Nice's pieces often incorporate found objects, such as matches, pen nibs, bottles, and bones. Within the context of her works, these items acquire new visual and symbolic meanings.

Something to talk about

Van Nice believes viewers appreciate the unexpected in art. Which aspects of the artist's work surprise you? Why?

In her own words

"Art has no rules of engagement, no mandatory method of approach. This is the strength of it. Where there are no rules, there are no boundaries."

M. L. Van Nice, *Swiss Army Book*, 1990; Ink on paper, linen, wood, pen nib, and ribbon, 5½ x 24½ x 11½ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Museum purchase: The Lois Pollard Price Acquisition Fund; © M. L. Van Nice

M. L. Van Nice, *Dinner with Mr. Dewey*, 2002; Mixed media, 32 x 42 x 20 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Museum purchase: Members' Acquisition Fund

