

Brien Beidler

Bookbinding and Toolmaking

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Education

College of Charleston, Charleston, SC

B.A. in Chemistry, 2012

Magna Cum Laude

Relevant Training

The Art of the Fold and New Departures; Instructors: Hedi Kyle and Ulla Warchol, *Paper and Book Intensive*, Oxbow, MI 2023

Making Ink for Writing and Drawing; Instructor: Richard Spelker, *Paper and Book Intensive*, Oxbow, MI 2023

Bronze Metal Casting; Instructor: Jesse Daniel Bert, Jewelry Maker / Metalsmith, Virtual, 2021

Finishing Press Making; Instructor: Timothy Moore, Woodworker & Toolmaker, Concord, MI, 2019

The "Other" Tooling Technique; Instructor: Peter Geraty, *American Academy of Bookbinding*, Telluride, CO, 2018

Basic Metal Engraving; Instructor: Bill Oyster, Master Engraver, *GRS Training Center*, Emporia, Kansas, 2018

American Publishers' Bookbindings, 1800-1900; Instructor: Todd Pattison, Rare Book Conservator, *Rare Book School*, Charlottesville, VA, 2016

Summer Institutional Exchange; Supervisor: Dawn Walus, former Chief of Conservation, *Boston Athenaeum*, Boston, MA, 2015

Conservation Learning Exchange; Instructor: Jana Dambrogio, Conservator, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology Libraries*, Cambridge MA, 2014

Medieval Book Technologies (Old Ways of Making Books); Instructor: Jim Croft, Bookbinder/Toolmaker, Santa, ID 2014

Full Leather Binding; Instructors: Monique Lallier and Don Etherington, Design Bookbinders, Greensboro, NC, 2014^[1]_{SEP}

Clamshell Box-making; Instructor: Don Rash, Fine Bookbinder, Plains, PA, 2013^[1]_{SEP}

Paper & Book Intensive; Instructors: Bernard Vinzani (Papermaker), Adam Larsson (Rare Book Conservator), and Julie McLaughlin (Papermaker), Oxbow, MI 2013

Edition Binding; Instructor: Don Rash, Fine Bookbinder, Plains, PA, 2012^[1]_{SEP}

Introduction to Leather Binding; Instructor: Don Rash, Fine Bookbinder, Plains, PA, 2011

Professional Experience

Beidler Made, Proprietor, 2016-present

Cut the Craft Podcast, Co-Creator and Co-Host, 2020-2023

Unlocking History Research Group, Contributor, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*, Cambridge, MA, 2015-2019

Bindery and Conservation Studio, Director, Charleston Library Society, Charleston, SC, 2012-2016

Special Collections, Bindery Assistant, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, 2009-2012^[1]_{SEP}

Deux Misérables Hand Bound Blanks, Proprietor, 2009-2010^[1]_{SEP}

Teaching Experience

Fopmawier Bookbinding Studio, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands: *Custom Finishing Tools*, April 2024

Penland School of Craft, Penland, NC: *Timeless Tomes for Tomeless Times: Historic Leather Bindings*, Fall Concentration, 2024 (upcoming)

San Francisco Center for the Book, San Francisco, CA: *Finishing Tool Making: A Practical Approach*, 2024, January

Queensland Bookbinders' Guild, Brisbane, Australia: *Pre-Industrial Gold Tooling*, 2023, July

Paper Book Intensive, Oxbow, MI: *Making Finishing Tools: An Economical Approach*, 2023, May

Hark-Weber Studio, Saint Paul, MN: *Gold Tooling for Shoemakers*, 2023

Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Minneapolis, MN: *Pre-Industrial Gold Tooling*, 2022

San Francisco Center for the Book, virtual: *Finishing Tool Making*, 2021 & 2019

North Bennet Street School, Boston, MA: *Tooling with Egg Glair*, 2019

Croft Bookbinding Studio, Santa, ID: *Medieval Book Technologies (Old Ways of Making Books)*, Assistant to Jim Croft, 2019

Art and Art History Dept., J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT: *Quarter Leather Binding: Reinterpreting Historic Techniques*, 2019

Escuela de Artes y Oficios Santo Domingo, Bogotá, Colombia: *Bookbinding: Reinterpreting Historic Techniques*, 2019

MFA Book Arts, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL: *Pre-Industrial Gold Tooling*, 2019

Graphic Design Department, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN: *19th Century Paperbacks*, Visiting Artist Workshop, 2019

Penland School of Craft, Penland, NC: *Contemporary Historic Binding*, 2018

Delaware Valley Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers, Philadelphia, PA: *Pre-Industrial Gold Tooling*, 2018

Delaware Valley Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers, Philadelphia, PA: *Finishing Tool Making*, 2018

Morgan Conservatory, Cleveland, OH: *Pre-Industrial Gold Tooling*, 2018

Pickwick Independent Press, Portland, ME: *Bone Tool Making*, 2017

Pattison Bindery, Otisfield, ME: *Pre-Industrial Gold Tooling*, 2017

Big River Bindery, Atlanta, GA: *Pre-Industrial Gold Tooling*, 2017

Midwest Chapter of the Guild of Bookworkers, Bloomington, IN: *Awl Shapes and Sizes Toolmaking Workshop*, 2017

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Unlocking History Research Group, Wunsch Conservation Lab, MIT Libraries, Cambridge, MA: *Making Historic Sealing Wax*, 2016

Penland School of Craft, Penland, NC: *Boxmaking for Book Artists*, Studio Assistant to Mary Uthupuru, 2016

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Wunsch Conservation Lab, MIT Libraries, Boston, MA: *Bone Tool Making*, Assistant to Jim Croft, 2016

North Bennet Street School, Boston, MA: *Bone Tool Making*, Assistant to Jim Croft, 2016

New York Center for Book Arts, NY: *Bone Tool Making*, Assistant to Jim Croft, 2016

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Signed, Sealed and Undelivered Research Group, Wunsch Conservation Lab, MIT Libraries, Cambridge, MA: *Making Historic Sealing Wax*, 2016

Redux Studios, Charleston, SC: *Making Historic Sealing Wax*, 2015

Ashely Hall School, Charleston, SC: *Secret Letters Summer Camp*, 2015

American College of the Building Arts, Charleston, SC: *Bone Tool Making*, Assistant to Jim Croft, 2015

John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, NC: *Wooden Boards Intensive*, Assistant to Jim Croft, 2015

Charleston Library Society, Charleston, SC: *Bookbinding Summer Camp*, 2013 & 2014

Charleston Library Society, Charleston, SC: *Half Leather Binding*, 2013
Charleston Library Society, Charleston, SC: *Cloth Case Binding*, 2013

Presentations

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Design Studies Department, Madison, WI, Presenter: *Visiting Artist Lecture*, Fall 2024 (upcoming)
Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies, Binding Special Interest Group, Presenter: *Making the Tools of the Trade*, March 2024
Guild of Book Workers, Standards of Excellence Seminar, San Francisco, CA, Presenter: *Finishing Tool Making: An Economical Approach*, September 2023
Queensland Bookbinders' Guild, Bind23 National Conference, Brisbane, Australia, Presenter: *Finishing Tool Making: An Economical Approach*, July 2023
American Craft Council, Panelist: *Future Insights: The Future of Public Voices in Craft*, virtual panel discussion, 2021
American Bookbinders Museum, Panelist: *Making their Mark*, virtual reception, 2021
Penland School of Craft, Penland, NC, Presenter: *Penland 2021 Spring Instructor Slides*, virtual, 2021
Penland School of Craft, Penland, NC, Presenter: *Summer Session VI Instructor Slides*, 2018
College of Charleston, Art History Department, Charleston, SC, Guest Lecture: *Medieval Book Structures in Their Context*, 2016
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, Panelist: *Re-engineering Broken Books Open House*, 2016
New England Art Book Fair, Portland, ME, Presenter: *Bone Tool Demonstration*, 2016
American Institute for Conservation (AIC) 43rd Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, Presenter: *The Relevance of Traditional Materials in Modern Conservation*, 2015

Publications

The Bookbinder, Journal of The Society of Bookbinders, Author: *New Work*, Volume 36, 2022
Journal of the American Institute for Conservation, Co-author: *Reengineering Broken Books (RBB): A Minimally Invasive Tissue Repair Technique for Hollowback Books*, 2022
Hand Papermaking Journal, Co-author: *Beidler Blue Laid*, Volume 34, Issue 1 (pg. 42-3), 2019
Carolina Lettering Arts Society Bulletin, Contributing Author: *Treasures in the Charleston Library Society*, Winter 2015 (pg. 4-5), 2015
Guild of Book Workers Newsletter, Author: *New Use for Hollytex*, No. 216. (pg. 13-14), 2014

Exhibitions

Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Upperville, VA: *Oak Spring, A Place to Grow*, featuring 'An Oak Spring Iconography,' 10 quarter leather bindings with custom tools and 'Session IV, 2021,' an engraved bronze casting, Invited, 2024, January
Umpqua Community College Art Gallery, Roseburg, OR, CO-Curator: *The Shape of Connection*, Invited, 2023, October
American Bookbinders Museum, San Francisco, CA: *The Many Lives of Books*, featuring 'Herbs for the Medieval Household' and 'Bulfinch's Mythology,' two full leather bindings, invited, 2023
Yeiser Art Center, Paducah, KY: *Beyond a Book*, featuring 'Commonplace Books,' three leather bindings, invited, 2019
Thomas Gallery, Bloomington, IN: *Bloomington Open Studios Tour Preview Exhibit*, featuring 'Commonplace Book,' full leather binding, Bloomington, IN, invited, 2018
Iowa Quilt Museum, Winterset, IA: *Feed Sack Quilts*, featuring 'Feed Sacks,' full leather binding,

invited, 2017

Virtual Exhibition: *Feed Sacks Bindings*, featuring 'Feed Sacks,' full leather binding, invited, 2017

University of Iowa Center for the Book, Iowa City, IA: *Handy Books*, featuring 'The Geography of Anywhere,' full leather binding, invited, 2017

Guild of Book Workers, Traveling Exhibition: *Vessel*, featuring 'Bulfinch's Mythology,' contemporary Gothic binding, juried, 2015-2017

Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, Charleston, SC: *Young Contemporaries*, featuring 'Books on the Brain,' charcoal on Paper, juried, 2015

Selected Special Projects

Traveling Exhibition, Penland School of Craft, Penland, NC, Gold Tooling: Commissioned to execute gold tooling on a pair of bespoke shoes made by shoemaker Jesse Moore for her piece featured in *Between Dreams and Reality: Bespoke Footwear*, 2024

San Francisco Public Library, Robert Grabhorn Collection, San Francisco, CA, Bookbinding: created a custom full leather binding of *Herbs for the Medieval Household* featuring hand engraved finishing tools relating to its content, 2023

Library of Congress, Conservation Division, Washington D.C., Toolmaking: Created a small collection of finishing tools to replicate historic tooling patterns for conservation work, Spring 2023 (In Progress)

Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Upperville, VA, Bookbinding & Toolmaking: Designed and created 10 large format guestbooks for the OSGF Library, each featuring a custom tool symbolic of different aspects of the OSGF surroundings and history, 2023 (in progress)

International Traveling Exhibition, Printmaking Department, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, Bookbinding & Boxmaking: Designed and executed a series of bindings and custom clamshell enclosures for the artist Tracy Templeton in the exhibition *ANTHEM: Expressions of Canadian Identity*, 2021-2022

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Wunsch Conservation lab, MIT Libraries, Cambridge, MA, Toolmaking: Created a small batch of finishing tools for students to learn about bookbinding material culture, 2021

Green's Books Ltd, Hanley Swan, Worcestershire, UK, Toolmaking: designed and executed a selection of finishing tools loosely inspired by *The Wind in the Willows* for their web shop, 2021

Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Upperville, VA, Sculpture: *Session IV, 2021*, a cast and engraved hardy orange representing scenes and scents of the Oak Spring Garden Foundation's pastoral grounds, 2021

Karen Hanmer Book Arts Collection, Glenview, IL, Bookbinding & Toolmaking: Designed and executed a didactic binding demonstrating the relationship between finishing tools and gold-tooled book cover designs, 2020

Pennsylvania State University Libraries, Preservation, Conservation and Digitization Department, State College, PA, Toolmaking: Small selection of finishing tools for leather tooling, 2019 & 2020

Ohio University, Alden Library, Athens, OH, Bookbinding & Toolmaking: Designed and executed a didactic binding and hand tool collection intended to teach book history students about historic bookbinding tools and practices, 2018

Karen Hanmer Book Arts Collection, Glenview, IL, Bookbinding: Designed and executed a cutaway binding of an 18th century structure, 2018

Numerous private collections, binderies, and conservation labs, nationally and internationally

Awards & Fellowships

Minnesota Center for Book arts, Minnesota, MN: McKnight Fellow for Book Arts, 2023

Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Interdisciplinary Residency Program, Upperville, VA: Artist in Residence, 2021

Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC) Carolyn Horton Grant, *Summer Institutional Exchange* with Dawn Walus, *Boston Athenaeum*, Boston, MA, 2015
Paper Book Intensive Scholarship, Oxbow, MI, 2013
Summer Undergraduate Research with Faculty (SURF) Fellowship: Restoration of volumes from the John Mackenzie Collection under the supervision of Head of Special Collections Marie Ferrara, *College of Charleston*, Charleston, SC, 2011

Collaborative Research

ABM Hand Made Pulp Board: Initiated and helped develop a sustainably sourced and historically sympathetic handmade book board that is now available through Colophon Book Arts Supply. Collaborators: Andrea Peterson, Proprietor, Hook Pottery Paper, Mary Uthuppuru, Proprietor, Colophon Book Arts Supply and Spring Leaf Press, with the help of Anne Hillam, Conservator in Private Practice, 2019
Unlocking History Research Group: Researched and reverse engineered historic sealing wax technologies and defined terminology for The Dictionary of Letterlocking; Cofounders: Jana Dambrogio, Conservator, MIT Libraries, and Daniel Starza Smith, Lecturer in Early Modern English Literature (1500-1700), King's College, London, UK. Collaborators: Mary Uthuppuru, Proprietor, Colophon Book Arts Supply and Spring Leaf Press, Ayako Letizia, Special Collections Conservation Associate, MIT Libraries, and Emily Hishta Cohen, Library & Archives Fellow, NYU Institute of Fine Arts, Conservation Center, 2015-2019
Reengineering Broken Book Spines Research Group: Helped develop a new minimally invasive conservation treatment for hollowback books; Director: Jana Dambrogio, Thomas F. Peterson (1957) Conservator, MIT Libraries. Collaborators: Mary Uthuppuru, Proprietor, Colophon Book Arts Supply and Spring Leaf Press, Ayako Letizia, Special Collections Conservation Associate, MIT Libraries, Emily Hishta Cohen, Library & Archives Fellow, NYU Institute of Fine Arts, Conservation Center, and Kate Beattie, General Collections Conservation Associate, MIT Libraries, 2014-2018

Professional Service

Paper and Book Intensive, Co-Director, 2023-
Cut the Craft Podcast Scholarship Fundraising: to date have given almost \$2000 to scholarship initiatives with donations to Crafting the Future, The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, and The Society of Inclusive Blacksmiths, 2020-present
Crafting the Future Endowment Scholarship Sweepstakes with Penland School of Craft: donated work to and helped promote a fundraiser sweepstakes that brought in over \$25,000 that helped endow a scholarship supporting underrepresented and emerging artists at Penland School of Craft, 2021
Restaurant Workers' Community Foundation Artisan Raffle: donated work to and helped promote a fundraiser that raised over \$100,000 to support service industry workers laid off by Covid, 2020
Guild of Book Workers, Vice President, 2016-2021
Guild of Book Workers, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Member, 2020-2022
Guild of Book Workers, Scholarship Committee Chair, 2016-2021
Charleston Book Union, Co-founder, 2014-2016

Recent Media

Uppercase Magazine: "Bookbinding Finishing Tools," by Todd Pattison. Volume 50 (pg. 112-117), 2021
Glass Breakfast Featured Artist, 2021
Building Sustainability Podcast, Episode 50, 2021
Volume 3 Montréal – Art and the Book: *Satellite Editions*, 2021
Books in the Wild Podcast: James Cook, Bookbinder & Murderer of John Paas, Toolmaker, Episode 14, 2021
The Ground Shots Podcast, Episode 32, 2020