

EXHIBITION EXPLORERS: Discover **ALICE AUSTIN!**

Have you ever made a book that can fold, twist, or even stand up like a sculpture?

Artist **ALICE AUSTIN** makes amazing books that look like little adventures! She uses **bold colours, beautiful textures, and pictures she carves by hand**. Her books don't just tell stories—they are the artwork.

Alice loves exploring places like **Italy, Ireland**, and her hometown **Philadelphia**. Her books are full of **the things she sees, hears, and feels in each place**—just like a map made with art.

She's been making books for over 25 years, and her artwork lives in big museums all over the world—even in New York, London, and Washington, D.C.!

What would your book look like? Where would it take us?



The name of ALICE AUSTIN's exhibition is **SCULPTURAL ARTIST BOOKS: MAPPING PLACE**.
Draw a mini map of your day in the space below. Include **where you came from, what you saw in Co. Mayo** and your **favourite moment** so far.

SCAVENGER HUNT

Can you find these colors and textures in the ALICE AUSTIN exhibition!

Circle each one when you find it.

1



2



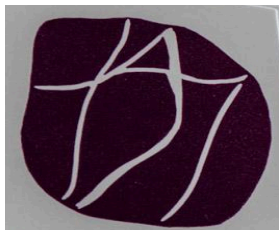
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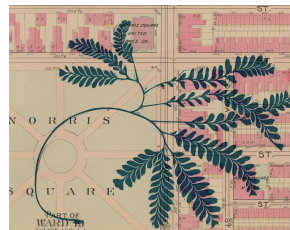
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5



6



Draw something from Co. Mayo that has a similar texture.

Hint: Draw a field, plant, rock, river, etc.

PRINT LIKE ALICE AUSTIN



ALICE AUSTIN **carves lino blocks to print** her images.

Create your own Co. Mayo print.

1. Find something bumpy or rough in the gallery or garden (leaves, floor, stones).
2. Place this page on top and rub with a pencil or crayon. Feel the wild!
3. Turn this rubbing into a monster, animal or building inspired by the texture.

BOOK SCULPTURES

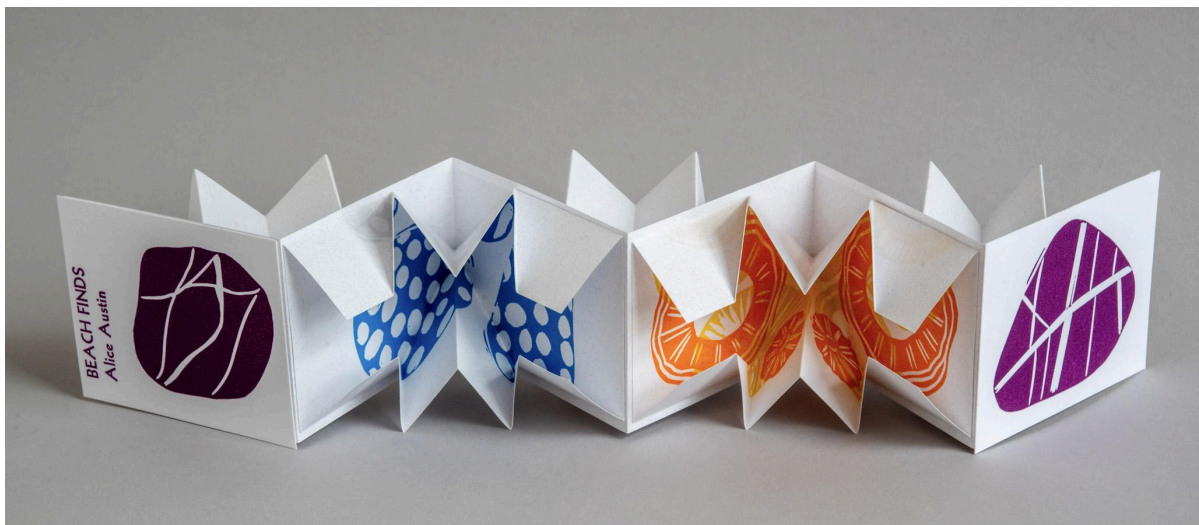
ALICE AUSTIN's books twist, pop, fold, and stretch.

Her books don't just hold stories—they are stories!

Design your own wild book sculpture.

- Could it fold like the **Céide Fields**?
- Could it pop open like a **Mayo wildflower**?
- Could it stand up like the **Doonfeeny Standing Stone**? The second highest standing stone in Ireland!

Some of Mayo's flowers: Orchid, bog cotton primrose, foxglove, heather, buttercup, ox-eye daisy, wood anemone, sundew, milkwort, marsh pea, dandelion, lesser celandine, thistle and butterwort.



DESIGN A MAYO DAY BOOK COVER



What makes County Mayo special to you?

Draw or write a list of all the places and things in Mayo that are important to you.

- Downpatrick Head
- Céide Fields
- Standing Stone
-
-
-
-
-

Draw a big outline of a book in the space below. Then **design a book cover** for your Mayo Day book.

Hint: Look at what ALICE AUSTIN has put on her book cover. Choose something from your list to put on your book cover, zoom in and draw it as large as you can.

WORD GARDEN



Write like ALICE AUSTIN, using tiny words and big feelings.

- Draw a special place in Co. Mayo. (a walk, a wild place, a beach)
- Choose **three words** that describe this special place. Write them in fancy letters around the drawing. For example: If you drew a garden your three words may be: quiet, mossy, rustle.

Hint: Draw The Ballinglen Arts Foundation if you are stuck for ideas of what to draw.

CREATE YOUR OWN EXHIBITION

If you were to make books and prints about your favorite place, what would they look like?

Draw your art exhibition here, with you as the artist!



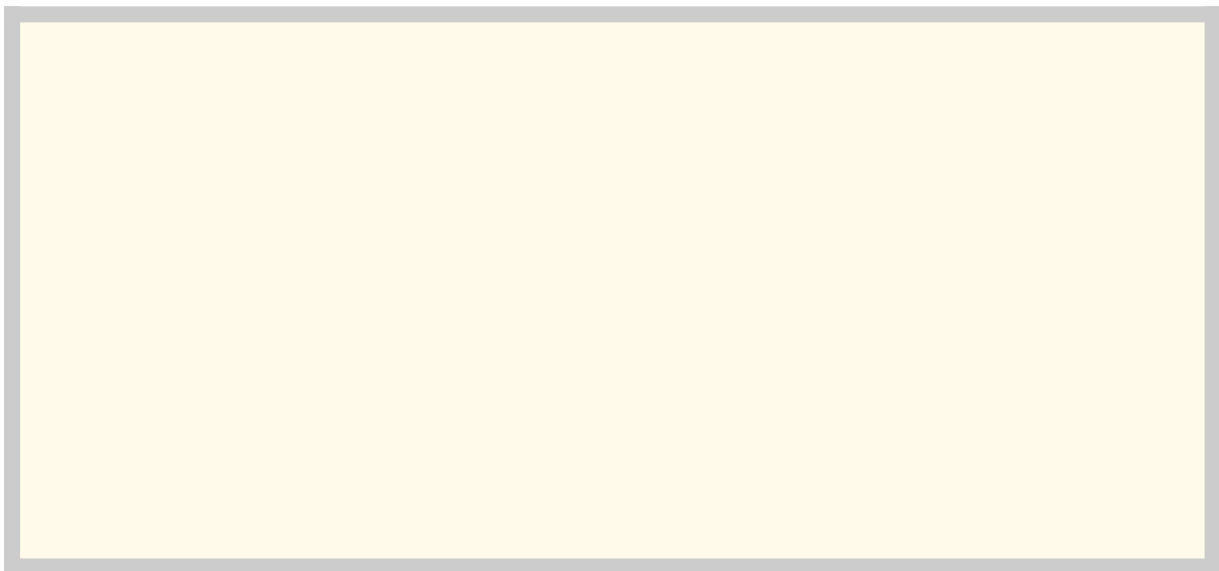
A POSTCARD FROM MAYO!

Alice Austin is a printmaker, book artist and painter living and working in Philadelphia.



DRAW a note for **ALICE AUSTIN**.

- What did you like most?
- What would you make next, if you were ALICE AUSTIN?



Thanks for Exploring with Us!

This art activity book was designed by **CELINA BUCKLEY**, using beautiful artwork by **ALICE AUSTIN**, for **The Ballinglen Arts Foundation**. We made it with support from **The Heritage Council**, to help you discover and enjoy the amazing nature and art of County Mayo!

Sketches, design & layout © Celina Buckley, 2025. All images © Alice Austin, 2025.
www.celinabuckley.com | www.amaustin.com | www.ballinglenartsfoundation.org