

Ancestral Reliquaries: An Assemblage Workshop

December 4, 2023

9:00-4:00

Cost: \$100.00

Materials Fee: \$50.00

Facilitator: Wendy Aikin

Reliquary: “A container or shrine in which sacred relics are kept.” Relics were traditionally segments of the cross or bones of a saint. Reliquaries were also known as ostensoriums or monstrances.

Class Description:

Join us to honor an ancestor (real or imagined) in this hands-on workshop. We will create a modern interpretation of an ancient reliquary using a pre-made substrate combining various artistic elements and personal found objects.

Highlights:

1. **Discovery:** Begin your journey at home by delving into your family history. Uncover a life story, meaningful achievement or moment that you want to memorialize. No interesting characters in your family? Make one up!
2. **Artifact Collection:** Collect a tiny relic, memento, or photo that will be the focal point of your reliquary. Choose something that holds special significance and can fit into the confines of a box 3.5” square and 1” deep.
3. Enjoy a **private tour** of *Curious Narratives – Imagined Memories* and consider various ways of preserving historical and/or fictional narratives in artistic ways.
4. **Guided Crafting:** Receive guidance and inspiration from an experienced facilitator who will help you bring your vision to life, while offering insights on composition and artistic choices. Explore a variety of techniques to creatively arrange and display your relic.
5. **Preservation:** Learn proper adhesion methods to ensure permanence and protection of your artwork.

Who Should Attend:

This class is open to adults of all artistic levels and backgrounds. No experience necessary.

Provided for You:

We will provide morning treats and coffee, a pre-made wood reliquary with stand (see photo), and Devcon 5-Minute Epoxy. In addition, I will have a limited amount of beads, metal and wood findings, bits of fabric, paint and brushes to share.

What to Bring:

Everything including your lunch, water and an apron. Bring your relic, a photo of your person, beads, broken jewelry, bits of trim, lace and cloth, small wood and metal findings, tiny glass bottles, and small collage elements...whatever you can find, and be imaginative. Many small

items can be attached to your reliquary to change its shape. Please come willing to share and trade with your classmates. In addition, please bring:

- scissors
- one tube of acrylic paint for the base color of your metallic piece (gold looks amazing)
- one paint brush to apply your base coat
- glue (Elmer's, wood or whatever you have in your stash)
- a needle for picking up beads

Outcome:

Guaranteed you will NOT finish this project in class. I spend up to 40 hours on a single reliquary. You will, however, have the skills and knowledge to complete the project at home. Your finished reliquary will be a sweet remembrance of the person you have chosen to honor, a day spent learning a new skill or two and making new friends.

Warning: Paint, hot glue, 5-Minute Epoxy, spray finishes, etc. will be used in class. If you are sensitive to chemical smells, this might not be the class for you.

	
	
Front & Back of Reliquary Blank	Sample of Completed Reliquaries