



CRAFT IN AMERICA CENTER

Preparation Information for Kiff Slemmons Book Discussion:

***Literature:**

Kiff Slemmons & Arte Papel Oaxaca

Re:Pair & Imperfection

Hands of Heroes

*Copies available at the Craft in America Center

Topics and questions for discussion:

1. We will explore the versatility of not only paper, but fibers, plants, trees and shrubs.
2. Have you viewed any of Kiff's work previously? How would you compare Kiff's paper, metal, and found object jewelry?
3. Do you think the theme of Kiff's overall oeuvre is hands? Why or why not?
4. What information were you expecting from these particular books?
5. Did the books help you understand Kiff's jewelry?
6. Do you think that this book is important to the exhibition?
7. From the images in the three books, which images stand out the most to you? Which words stand out to you?
8. In all three books, it is explained that Kiff creates her jewelry, essentially by collaborating with other people: artists, artisans, local communities, and historical figures. How does this affect her jewelry, her craft?
9. It can be gathered that there has to be a story behind each piece/material she uses to create her work, rather than using any type of material to create a story: she uses a story to create her art work, she doesn't make art to tell a story

Facts mentioned in the books:

- Paper is cut, folded, inked and wrapped to make jewelry
- The fibers for making the paper are derived from majahua, chichicastle, agave, pochote, and coyuche
- Coloring dyes are derived from local vegetables and mineral sources and aniline dyes
- Kiff often works in a series, so her jewelry pieces are usually related to several other works

More on the series:

The Craft of Reading was created in order to explore Craft in America's large and expanding Arts and Crafts library. The library, located at the Center is free and open to the public during operating hours (Tue-Sat: 12-6pm). We invite the local public and artists to visit our library as well as encourage conversations on topics of craft through literature.