

# LETTER no.93

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

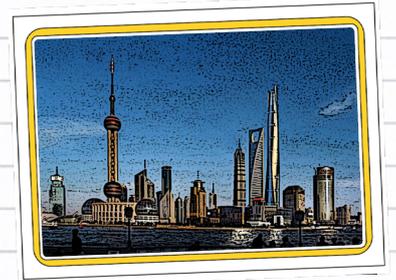
on [iversity](#) / on [design lol redux website](#)

Part 3 - My World / Week 06 - My Things



Greetings from the Wen Miao book fair, Shanghai.

We came to the “[Temple of Confucius](#)” to search for old books and learn from the true masters of book-binding. Have you ever seen how Chinese and Japanese people put together sheets of paper? Their [stab-binding](#) technique is an art. It is so beautiful, so smart...



Basically, it is one of the best and effective ways to put together a number of sheets and transforming them into useful notebooks/sketchbooks.

Now, you just saw Anne-Sophie make her first stab-binding notebook. A little clumsy towards the end, but she'll improve (mr Lee says... He told her to make a series of ten).



Who is mr Lee? He is our special Chinese master.

As usual, if we want to do something, someone else had the same need/desire before us. Always check, explore, look around or ask the master!

## Question of the day:

### To bind or not to bind?

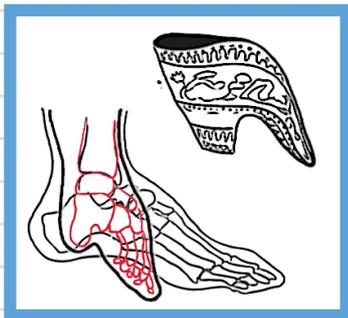
“**To bind**”: to make secure by tying, to confine, restrain, or restrict as if with bonds, to wrap around with something so as to enclose or cover, to tie together, to cause to stick together, constipate... All things found on our favourite [Merriam Webster](#) dictionary...

We can bind books, we can bind people, we can bind a lot of things.

Did you know that in China there was this tradition to tightly bind young girls' feet to keep them from growing over the years?

The bones and muscles deformed into a shape that eventually, made walking painful and difficult (thus, rendering the woman almost disabled).

This fact of having properly deformed small feet was considered beautiful and signified high status in society. Isn't it odd, how the concept of "beauty" changes through different times?



Do you know the various reasons related to high heel shoes?

Can you imagine why domination and submission is related to such a fashionable item?

For you, [click here](#) to learn more (if you feel like it).

## What will I do today?

Today is special because the exercise might not apply to all.

Please evaluate if it is useful for you.

Then, if not useful, take some time to improve what you did yesterday and share 3 new images with us using today's hashtag.

Ok?

So, today's exercise is related to the overall "binding" (or "tying together") of your magazine.

Some of you might say:

"But what does this mean?

Yesterday, I stapled my magazine's pages together...

Isn't this exactly what "binding" is all about?"



Yes it is.

Now, read carefully.

If you chose to make a "simple" / "classical" / one-booklet magazine with stapled pages of paper, this is fine and there is no need to add further "binding" elements.

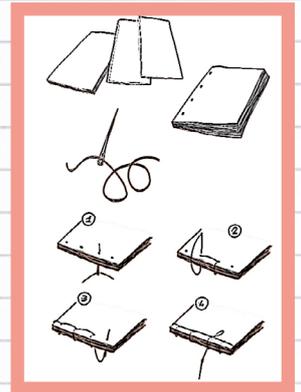
If you chose to make an accordion-like magazine, the same applies.

Today's exercise is for those who chose to make a magazine composed of various elements.

For example, if your magazine is composed of 3 "instant" books, how do you "put them together"? A nice idea could be of using an elastic..

Another example: if you are working on some kind of "fluxus-like" magazine made of various elements of various sizes and formats, how do you "close" your magazine? How do you make sure that all the pieces come together in a nice and clear and steady way? How do you "wrap" things up into a whole?

Please remember that once "closed", the overall should be the size of A6 (or: 14.8cm x 10.5cm)



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Share 3 images with us on Instagram using the hashtags:

#TheShapeOfTime and #DesignlolRedux.

Then, add a nice (and meaningful) caption to accompany your images and hashtags.

## What will I learn doing this?

To "question" yourself, observe what you've done so far, observe what your colleagues have done so far, evaluate what works, what doesn't work and adjust.

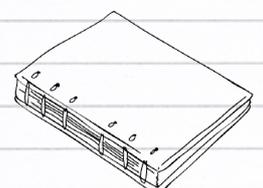
## Why do we do this?

Because as Timothy Leary

(the man we have on today's stamp) would say:

"If you don't like what you're doing, you can always pick up your needle and move to another groove."

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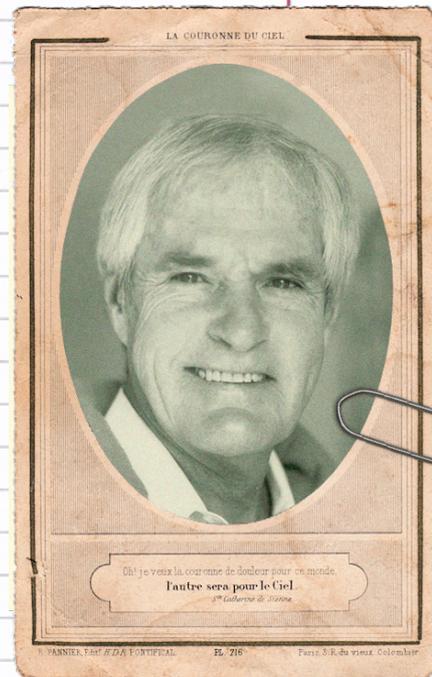
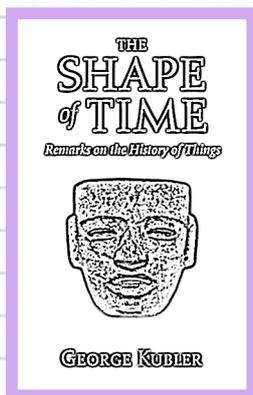


Something to remember:  
Evaluate what is useful  
for you. Improve. Repeat.

## Further inspiration

“The absolute value of a project  
is not determined by the idea alone  
but by its placement in time.”

George Kubler, “The Shape of Time”

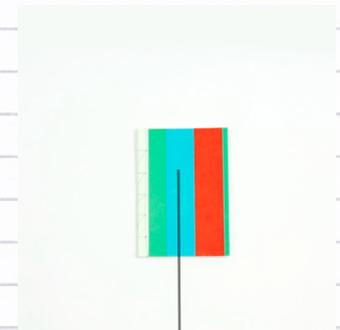


# Today's Postcard References

Timothy Leary



Binding needle



the stab-binded notebook

fm      A88      Giulia

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