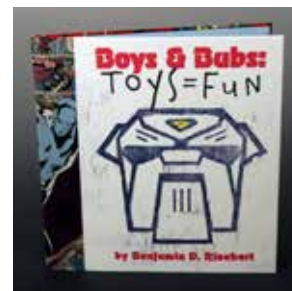


The Boys & Bub Series by Benjamin D. Rinehart

Project Statement: The main title is a tribute to my husband, myself, our two children, and our English Bulldog Bubs. The series gently highlights the universal humanity shared by heterosexual and non-heterosexual parents and families. The artist books are colorful and interactive, inviting deeper engagement with the topics presented. I have painstakingly completed and editioned thirteen unique books between 2015 and 2025. The books range in terms of process, physical elements (pop-ups, movables, text, flaps, etc.), and structure, but all conform to the same dimensions (9" x 9") with variable widths. Each book from the series was printed in a limited edition of seven identical copies. The colophon for each book is next to the images on the following pages. A prospectus is available upon request which provides detailed images for each book.

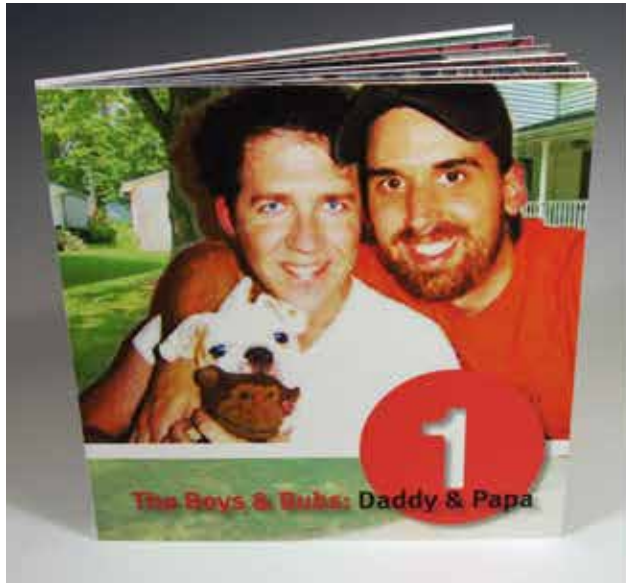


**To schedule an exhibition or purchase
a copy please contact me at:**

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The Boys & Bubs: Daddy & Papa

1

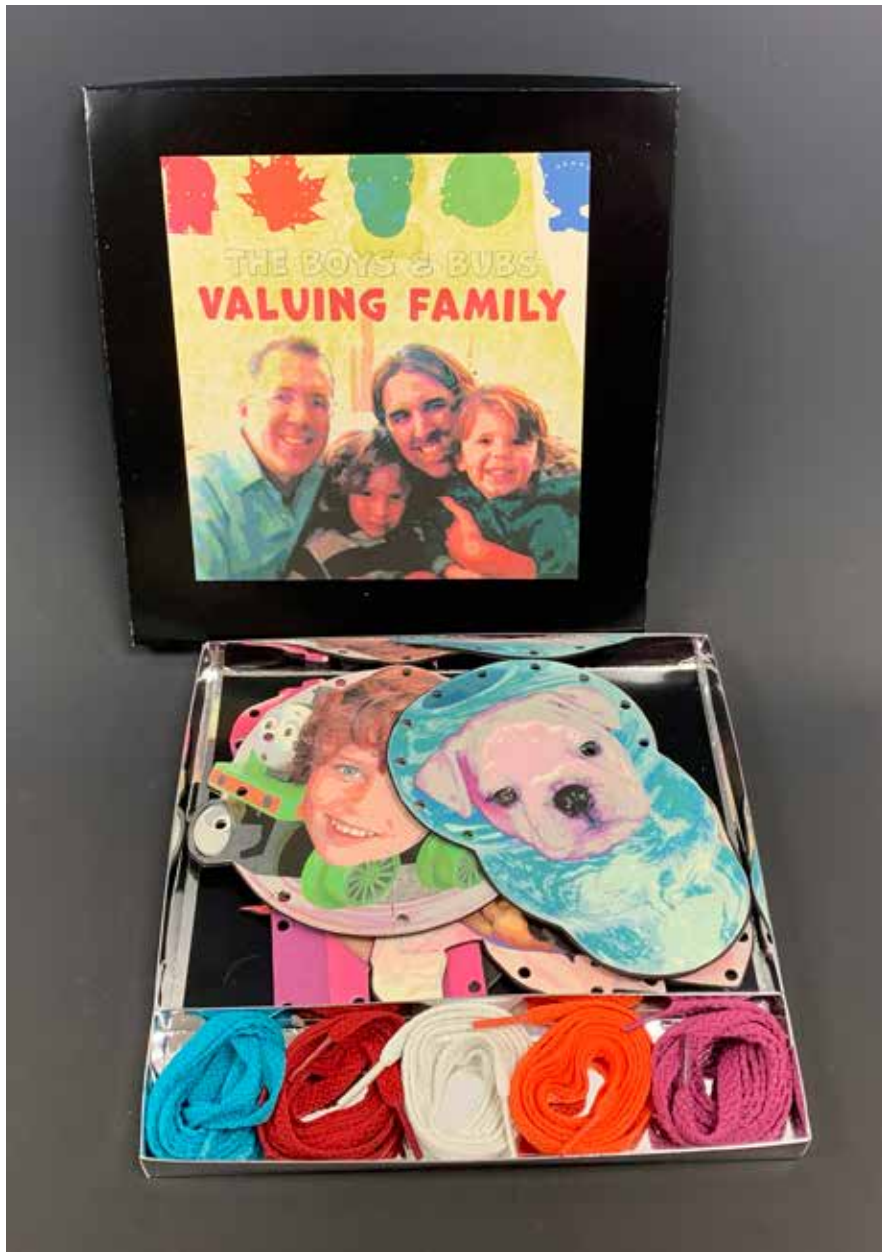


Book description: This lift-the-flap book details the journey of two individuals who met in New York City and eventually moved to Appleton, Wisconsin to start a family.

Each page has multiple tabs that reveal the narrative.

The Boys & Bubs: Valuing Family

2

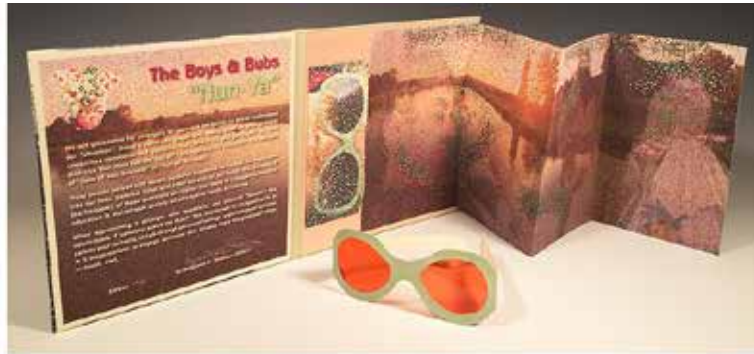


Book description: When we started our family in Appleton, WI it came with the reality that our closest family members were still four hours away. This required us to travel several times each year to Iowa and Indiana to see our families. The lacing cards were just one of many car activities we did on long road trips to pass the time.

Thankfully we became friends with a wide variety of LGBTQ+ couples in the Fox Valley through a group called “Valued Families”. This created a support network that was necessary to thrive in an unfamiliar area of the country. We appreciate the friendships and connections because it created an indelible bond between the families.

The Boys & Bubs: Nun-Ya

3



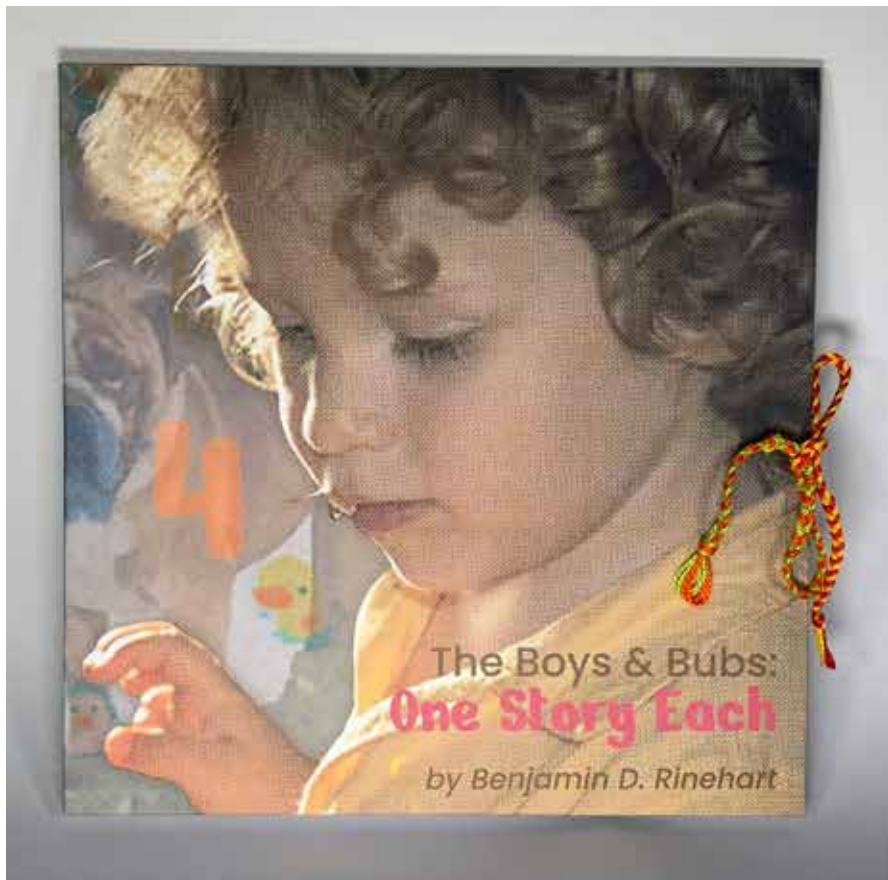
Book description: It's not uncommon for strangers to approach my family to better understand our "situation". Being a same-sex couple and having children often prompts unsolicited comments and questions like "Where did you get them?" or "Isn't that nice that mom had the day off." We typically file this under the category of "none of your business" or "nun-ya" for short.

Many people persist with deeply personal questions as to how the boys came into our lives, parental roles, and other aspects of our family life. Because of the frequency of these questions we realize that there is a desperate need for education in mainstream society on alternative family structures.

When approaching a stranger with questions, ask yourself "Would I feel comfortable if someone asked me that?" This should not be an opportunity to satiate your curiosity, to talk through personal feelings, experiences or opinions. Is it inappropriate to engage someone who already feels marginalized? When in doubt, wait.

The Boys & Bubs: One Story Each

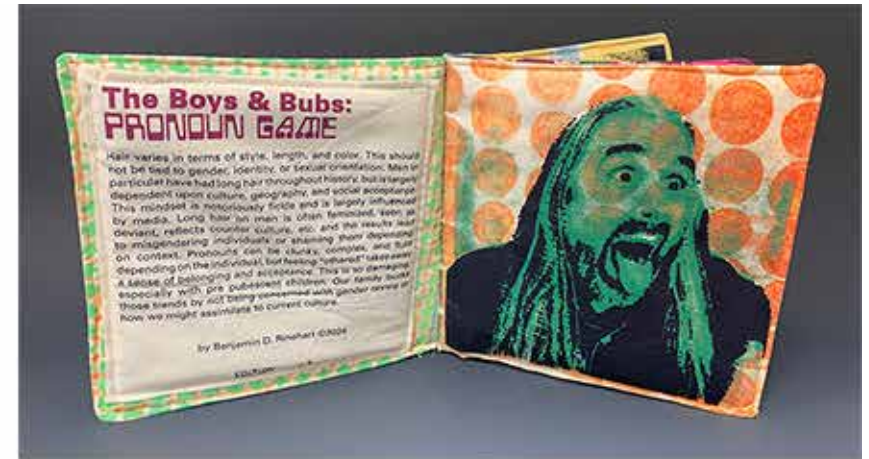
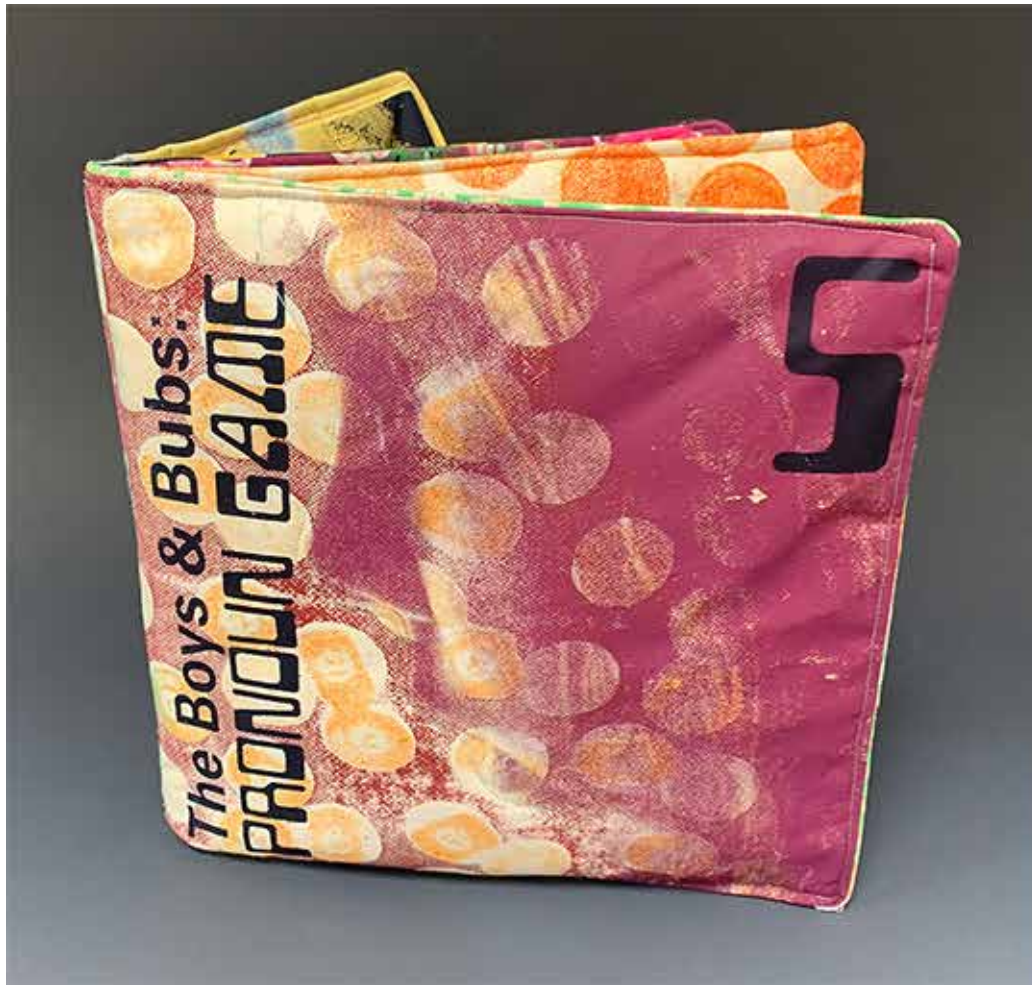
4



Book description: Reading books was one of my favorite times of the day. The kids were freshly bathed, in jammies, and always eager to cuddle up. They were allowed to pick one book each and we would all read together. We used funny voices for each character and had fun despite the dozens of times that we may have read each book.

The Boys & Bubs: Pronoun Game

5



Book description: Hair varies in terms of style, length, and color. This should not be tied to gender, identity, or sexual orientation. Men in particular have had long hair throughout history, but is largely dependent upon culture, geography, and social acceptance. This mindset is notoriously fickle and is largely influenced by media. Long hair on men is often feminized, seen as deviant, reflects counter culture, etc. and the results lead to misgendering individuals or shaming them depending on context. Pronouns can be clunky, complex, and fluid depending on the individual, but feeling “othered” takes away a sense of belonging and acceptance. This is so damaging, especially with pre pubescent children. Our family bucks those trends by not being concerned with gender norms or how we might assimilate to current culture.

The Boys & Bubs: Color is for Everyone

6

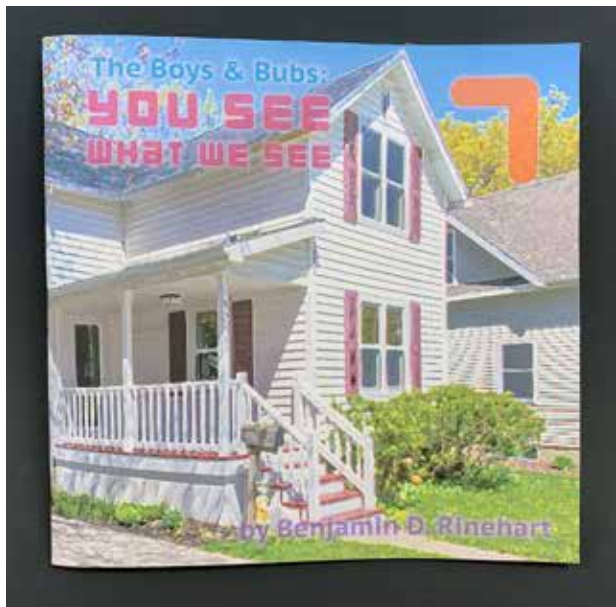


Book description: The viewer is encouraged to question color relationships and how it affects gender association. Society and cultural beliefs often dictate the hues that are “acceptable” and how it relates to a specific gender. Historically this changes over time, especially with variations of primary colors like blue and red.

Each page can be torn out and should only be colored with the pencils provided.

The Boys & Bubs: You See What We See

7



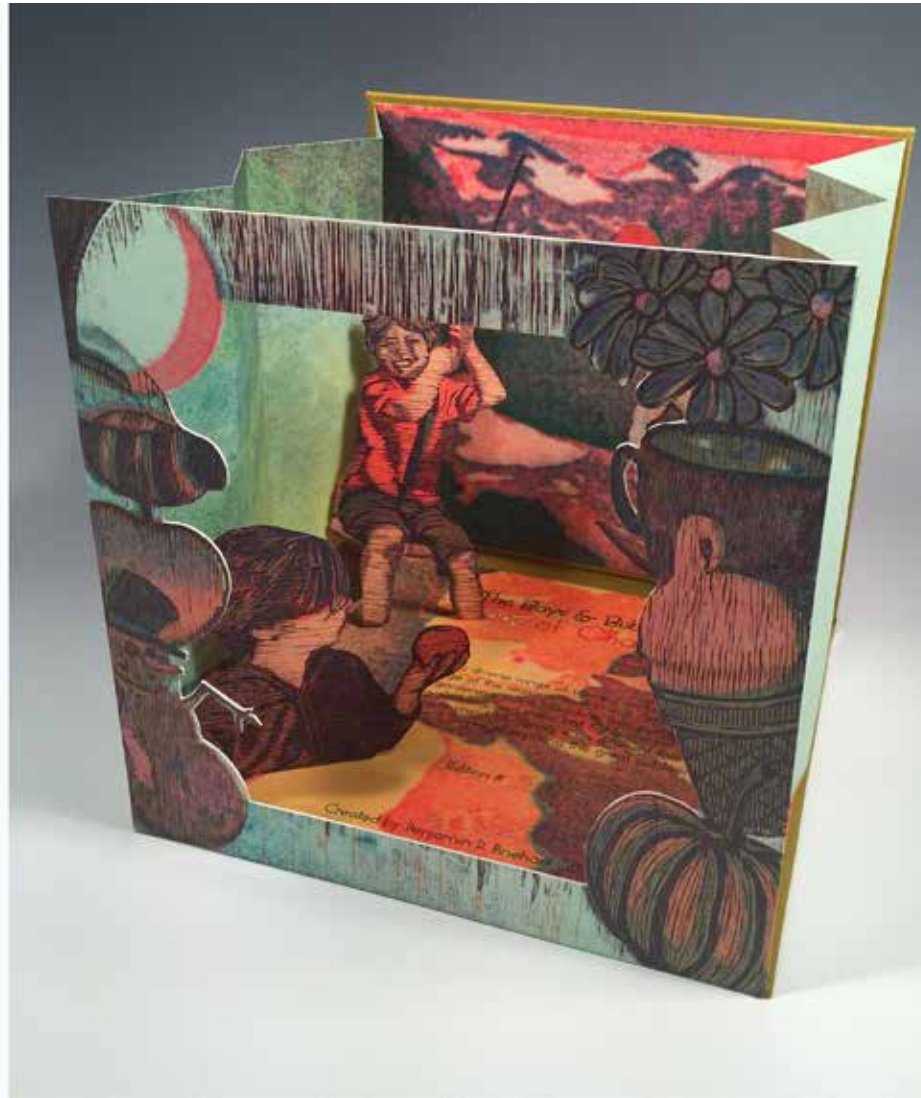
Book description: Outward perceptions are heavily linked to what we wear. Why are men's clothes so drab in comparison to women's clothing? Why does it matter if a man wears pink or if a boy learns how to walk in heels? Our family is aware that we don't conform to societies standards and often stand out. This has no affect on our gender and sexuality, but rather a reflection and celebration of individual identity.

This book contains items that are considered to cross the line in terms of stereotypical appropriate male gender expression. Try to recall a time when you were shamed by wearing something unconventional. This book nudges the viewer to consider alternative possibilities and to embrace new ideas.

Stickers have been used for decades as a reward, sense of accomplishment, status, and identity. Use the stickers in the back of the book to embellish the pages and figures as desired.

The Boys & Bubs: Seasons of Change

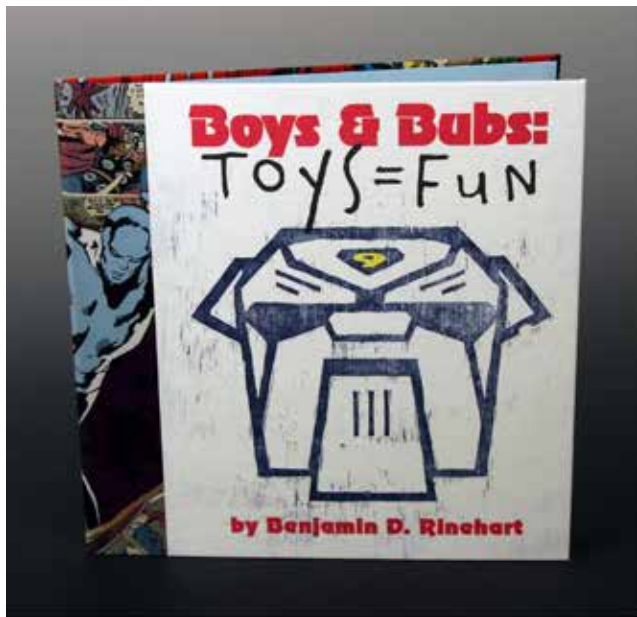
8



Book description: The USA offers a diverse range of scenery and opportunities with the change of the seasons. Swimming, climbing trees, playgrounds, gardening, riding bikes, bon fires, pumpkin and apple picking, sledding, and snow ball fights are just a few things that come to mind. My family is no different than many others when it comes to enjoying the great outdoors.

The Boys & Bubs: Toys = Fun

9



Book description: I worked at a toy store for years and was required to test all of the new toys to better serve the customers. Since then I strongly believe that every child should have access to a variety of toys free from ridicule because of bias, stereotype and/or intended audience. Let a boy wear a dress and carry a doll or a girl play with superhero Legos while wielding a sword. The most important thing is to be creative, play, and have fun!



Trains

design the tracks into interesting patterns and don't forget to make train noises.



Super Heroes

Doesn't everyone secretly want to have super powers?

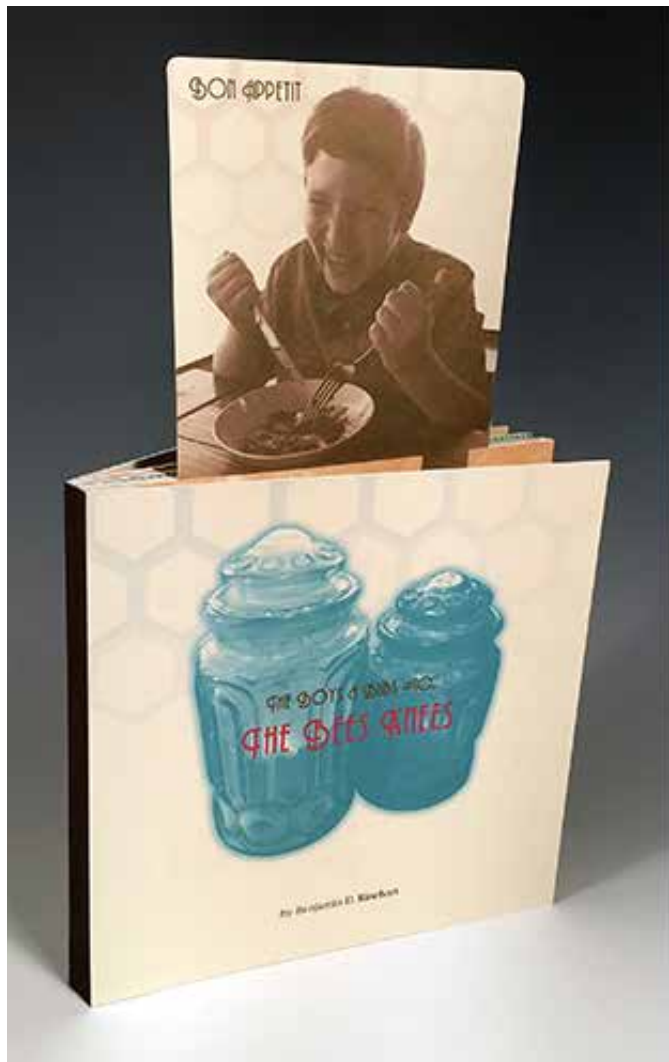


Dolls

And they called the baby jo-be. clothing optional.

The Boys & Bubs: The Bees Knees

10



Book description: Cooking for others gives me great joy. It is especially rewarding when I see smiles on everyone's faces. I often tell the kids that there always needs to be a little love in each dish or else it doesn't taste as good. For our family, food transcends social and cultural barriers, and gives us a chance to share a part of ourselves when we have guests at the dinner table.

The recipes throughout this book are family favorites and tested on multiple audiences. Lift the tab on each page to reveal the recipe and join us for something tasty.

The Boys & Bubs: The Wig Master

11



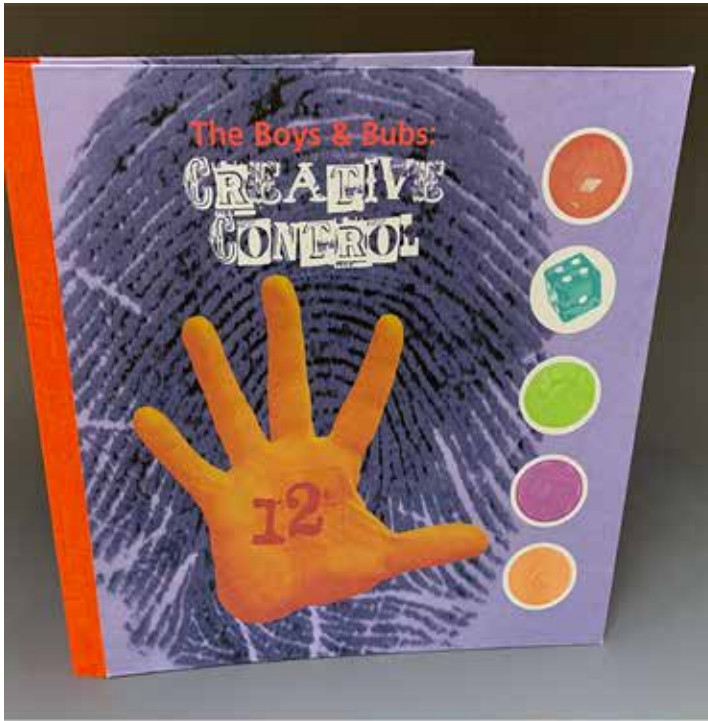
Book description: Gender fluidity and freedom of personal expression are important credos in our household. The idea of changing one's outward appearance with the ease of taking on or off a wig is enticing and fun. Styling and wearing wigs are a normal part of our kids world because of Joshua's profession as a wig master. This has given our kids a chance to experience a variety of styles that cross gender in appearance.

The magnetic wigs are reminiscent of iconic figurative refrigerator magnets; like the statue of David dressed like Marilyn Monroe. Opportunities to switch one's outward appearance are socially restrictive and often limited to holidays or masquerades.

Whenever and however you choose to express yourself, embrace it!

The Boys & Bubs: Creative Control

12

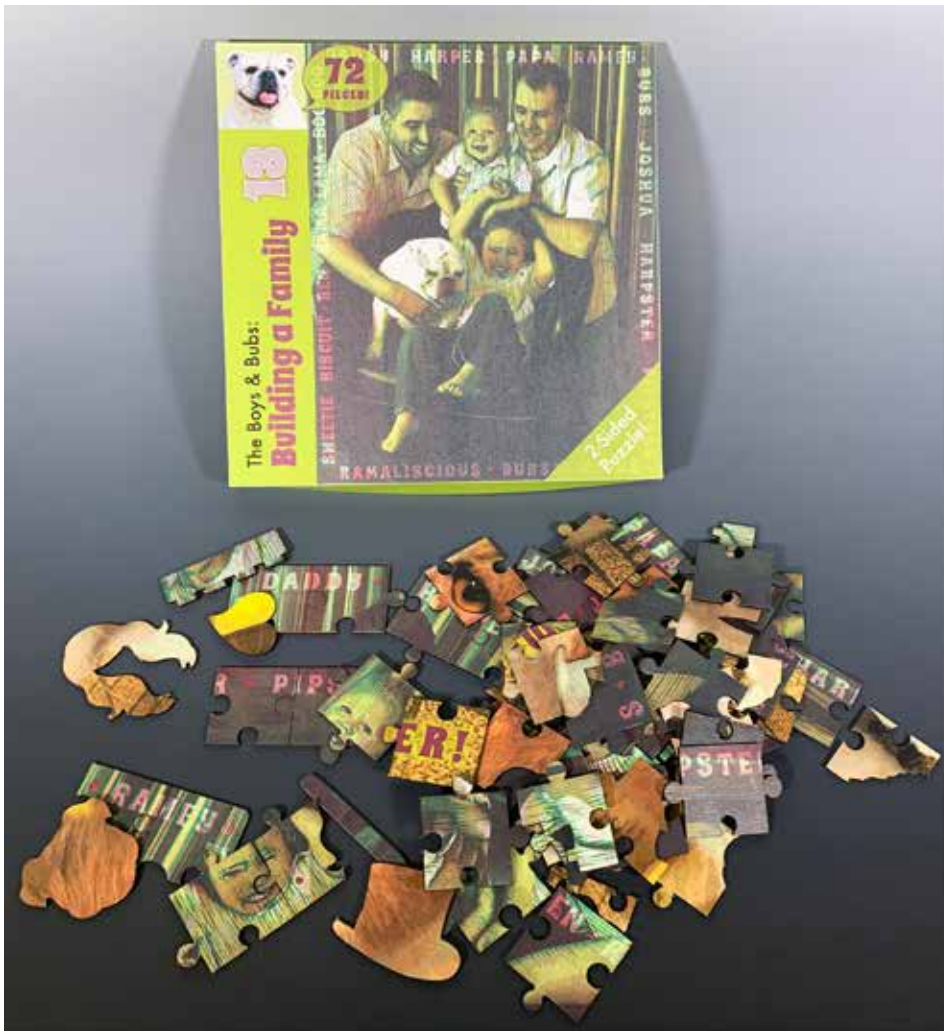


Book description: Creativity comes in many forms and may appeal to multiple senses. Imagination allows the creator to embrace the unexpected or to let the subconscious take control.

With an artist and actor heading the household, our kids have always been encouraged to try many artistic mediums whether it is art, theatre, writing, dance, figure skating, cooking, music, or building. This book gives the viewer a glimpse of some of our passions and interests. As a family, when pursuing something new we instill the importance of being brave, taking risks, and letting the inner freak shine.

The Boys & Bubs: Building a Family

13



Book description: Having a family is something that many people take for granted. I was told repeatedly that I would never be able to have kids and that my life would be limited because of being gay. Thankfully, my husband and I have defied this mindset and are proud of the family that we have created. Our lives are interconnected with both birth and chosen family in so many wonderful ways.

Nicknames have always been a sign of belonging when growing up, whether you wanted one or not. We have continue that tradition which is reflected along the border of the puzzle. The image on the front of the puzzle is one of my favorite family portraits that showcases the joy that we have felt in living a happy life together.