

SOLIDARITY BOOK PROJECT

Shaping Books that Shaped Us



*“Together, we will make
a collective monument
to the work of solidarity.”*

— SONYA CLARK

The Solidarity Book Project encourages us to think deeply about what solidarity means and to make that commitment material through art.

Envisioned by artist Sonya Clark, this collaborative artwork pushes against the legacies of settler colonialism and anti-Black racism. The project is one way Amherst College, in its Bicentennial year, has committed to reckon with difficult histories and recommit to a more equitable future. **This art initiative is open for public participation and engagement. In September 2021, an immersive exhibition including participants' sculpted books will be mounted.** For each participant who responds to the calls to action, the College will donate to organizations serving Black and Indigenous communities in need of book knowledge up to a total of \$100,000.



Sonya Clark '89 is a professor of art and the history of art at Amherst College, where she received an honorary doctorate. Her artwork has been exhibited in over 400 venues worldwide and reviewed in *The New York Times*, *The Huffington Post*, *Art in America*, and *Artforum*, among other publications. She is an American Craft Council Fellow and a recipient of a Rappaport Prize, Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship, United States Artist Fellowship, and Anonymous Was a Woman Award. She has worked with creative individuals at residencies at Red Gate in China, The Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center in Italy, Yaddo in New York, American Academy in Rome, and Black Rock in Senegal.

Illustration: Joanna Booth '19
Template design: Meg Arsenovic
Jonathan Jackson '19
Project Manager: Amir Hall '17
Artistic Director: Sonya Clark '89
Design: Su Auerbach



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE!

Calls to Action (submissions accepted now through June 2021)

#SolidaritySculpting

- Use this document to sculpt a solidarity fist into a book that has shaped your understanding of solidarity.
- Amherst College will cover postage fees for you to mail completed books to be included in the final exhibition!

If you have a beloved book you can't bring yourself to alter, support independent, used and BIPOC-owned bookstores near you by buying that second copy. Find one near you on our website.

#SolidarityReading

- Share an excerpt or read and record (audio or video) from a book that shaped your understanding of solidarity.

Please keep your response to less than 60 seconds or under 100 words.

#SolidarityReflection

Post an audio, video, or written response to

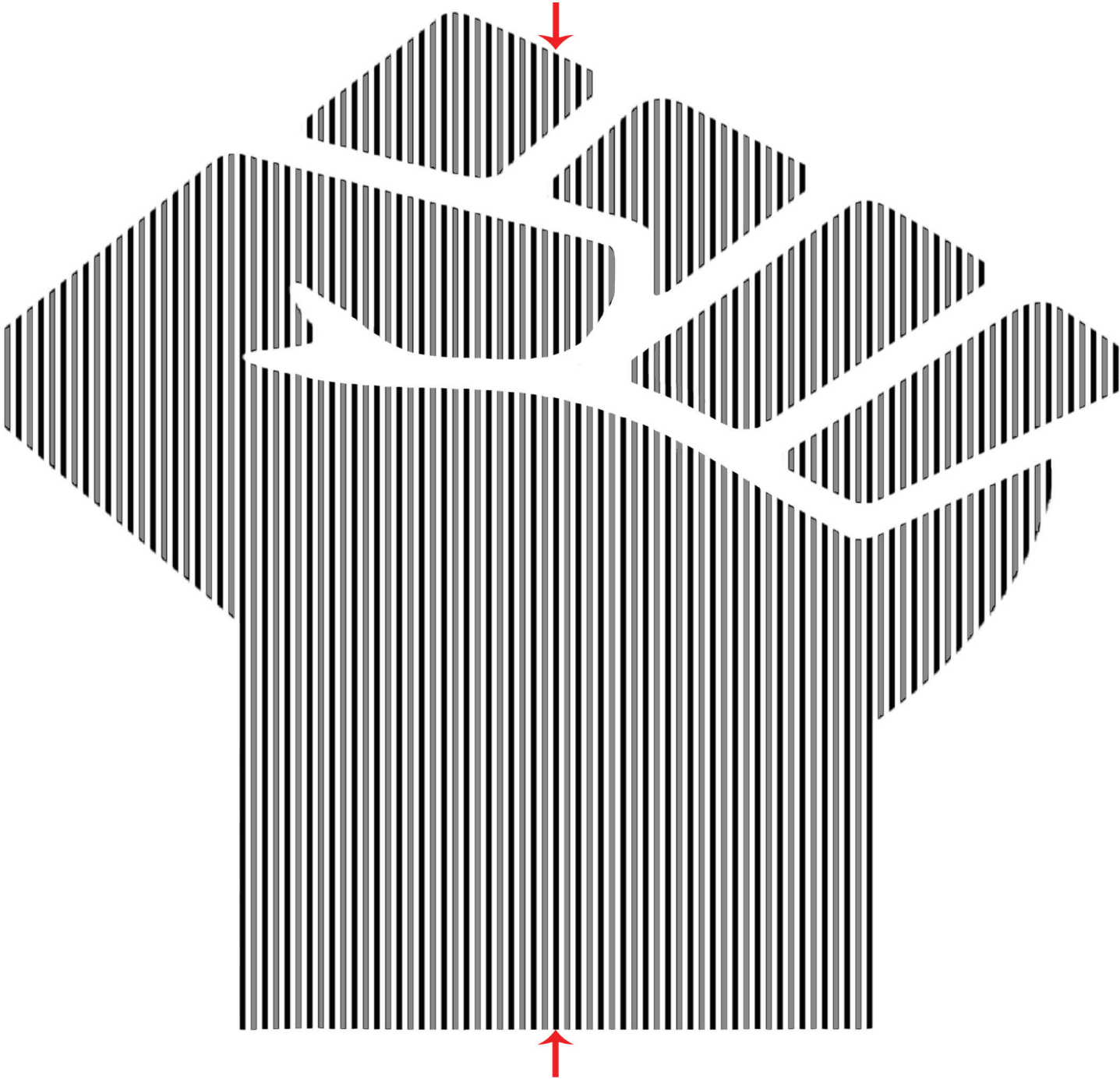
- “What does solidarity mean to you?” OR
- “How has someone in your life been a model of solidarity for you or for others?”

When you're done Reflecting, Reading or Sculpting, remember to post your submissions! **Your participation raises funds only when you share your responses through the links in our Instagram bio (@solidaritybook_) or at amherst.edu/go/solidaritybook.**

Social media savvy? Help spread the word. Share your responses using the hashtags #SolidarityReflection, #SolidarityReading, #SolidaritySculpting and #SolidarityBook. Tag friends and nominate them to participate! Tag us as well. Follow us on Twitter (@solidaritybook), Instagram (@SolidarityBook_), TikTok (@solidaritybook) and like our Facebook page.

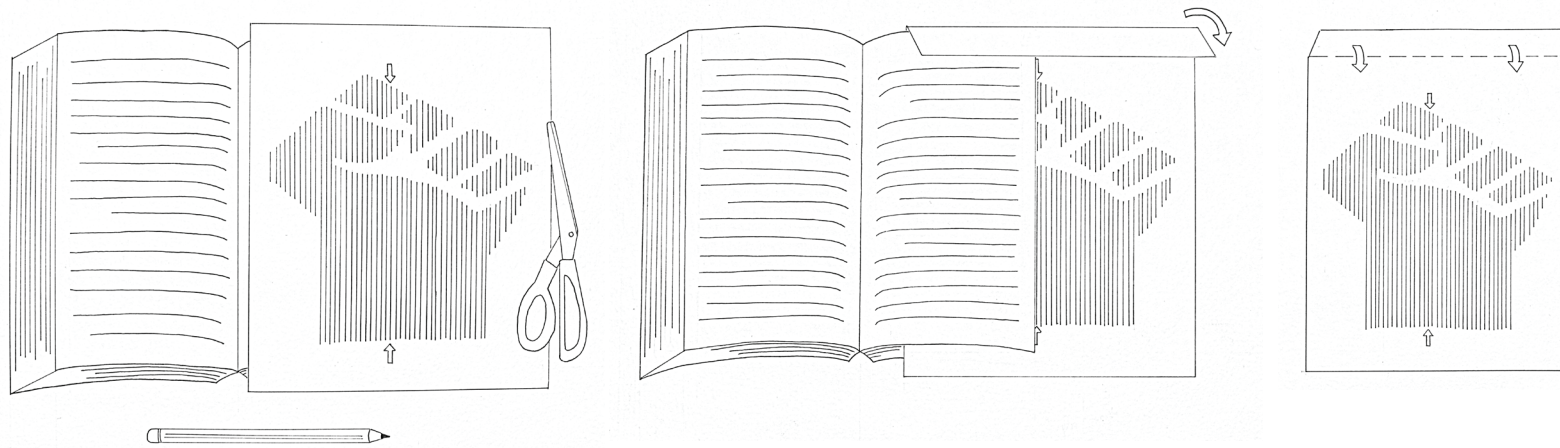


SOLIDARITY BOOK TEMPLATE



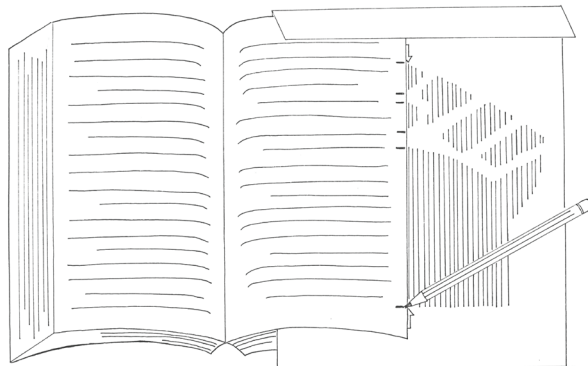
Front Cover

Back Cover

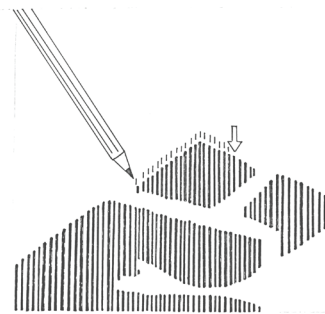


TIP: Fold the top of the template page along the top of the book. This fold acts as a hinge and keeps the template in the right place on each page.

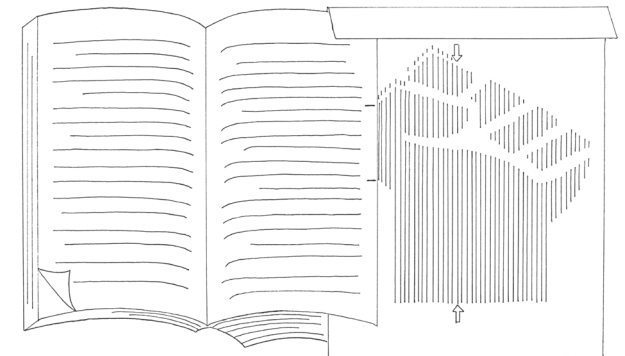
Step 1. Start with a page at the center of the book and align the vertical edge of the page with the centerline of the template (marked by arrows on template).



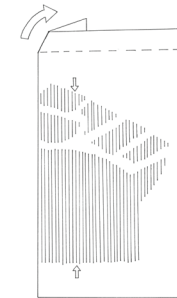
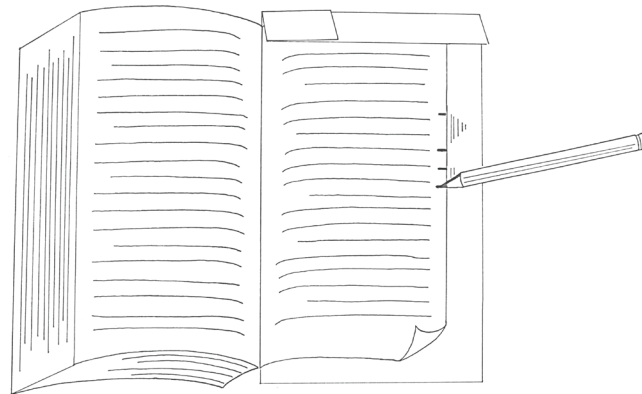
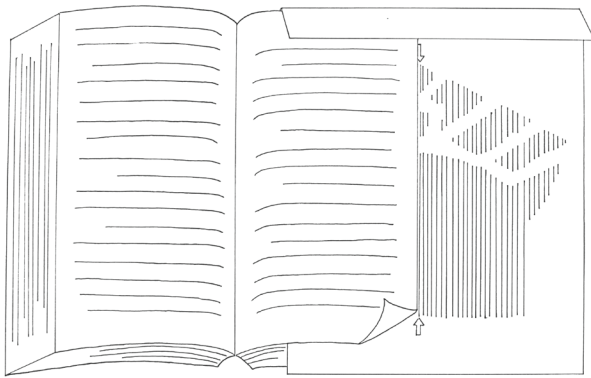
Step 2. Make a pencil mark on the book page at the beginning and ending of each vertical dark line of the template. These are your cutting lines.



TIP: Check off the top of the line you just completed on the template. Do this each time so you don't lose your place.

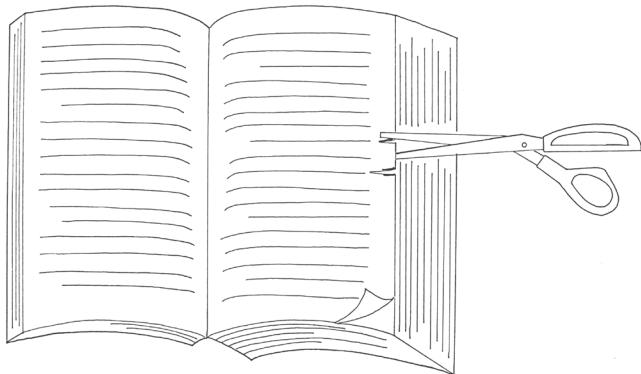


Step 3. Move the template to the preceding page, fold the template hinge to keep the template at the right height and repeat Step 2.

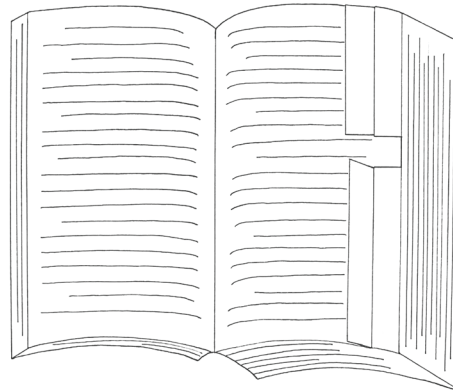


TIP: You may need to fold your template horizontally to fit the template into the depth of your book as you work towards the back cover.

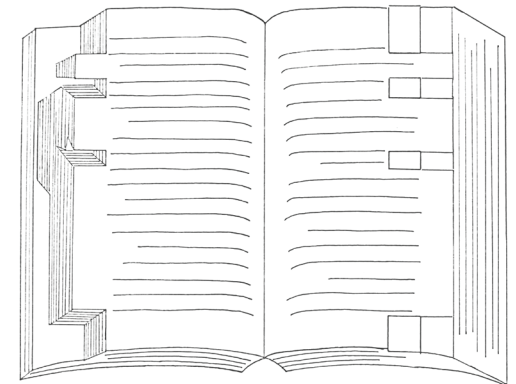
Step 4. When you have finished marking the entire left half of the template, go back to the middle of your book. Repeat the process, this time, working on the right half of the template and marking each page as you move toward the back of your book.



Step 5. Starting at the first marked page, cut at each mark only as deep as the margin. This creates a series of tabs.



Step 6. Working from the top of the page, fold the first tab toward the center of your book. Skip the next tab. Alternate folding tabs for the rest of the page.



Step 7. Repeat Step 6 on all marked pages of the book until the solidarity fist is complete.