

REMEMBER ME

a paper making project for Suella

winter/spring 2021

Joan Yoder Miller

The Paper

I had hoped to make some large sheets of paper for the project, as requested. But that was not working with my equipment. After much thought, I decided to make paper sheets the size of my favorite mold and deckle (8 X 6) and figure the rest out later.

I made paper over a couple of afternoons in February. On the first day, after shredding all of the FOH documents, I soaked the paper for a few hours. Reaching in to pull out paper to put into the blender, I noticed WORDS were floating on top of the soak water. They seemed to me to be bits and pieces of intention that told me something about FOH. I was enchanted by these words and disappointed that I had made a few pieces of paper without noticing. But some words, on their own, had managed to be visible on the surface of the paper. So I admit that after making the discovery, I manipulated things a bit so that more words would end up on the surface of the finished paper. Still it felt like a Spirit-directed thing. On the second day of making paper, the shredded paper no longer had the spirited words; only bits of addresses or no words at all.

Lettering

The project got into my dream life a bit and I awoke one morning with an idea. Rather than taping 10 pieces of paper together and writing "Remember me" across one side before cutting into bookmarks, I would make one large letter on each piece of paper and cut that paper into four bookmarks. With the paper being 8 X 6, the bookmarks were just the size requested.

As I began working with the letters, I noticed that there are four E's, three M's, two R's and one B. I didn't even need to "remember" where each letter went within the word; there was much interchanging possible. I had a sense that "dismember" was already embedded in the phrases. Depending on how I wrote the letters, the dis-membering was more or less obvious.

And gold. . .the large individual letters, with their intention for "Remember me", seemed to need some gold. The more I worked with the letters, the more gold got used. Gold is symbolic of our highest values (for one thing) and it seemed to me appropriate.

It was hard to decide---do I make the bookmarks all the same? I had several ideas but in the end decided that making them the same might be best. I like having "remember me" in two forms one with all the possibility of a possible re-membering of the whole project by looking at the backside.

It has been a deeply satisfying to get to work with the *Remember me*.