



## Mirrors of Identity

G26080404

with Jorge Luis Somarriba

August 23-29, 2026

Dear participants,

Welcome to MIRRORS OF IDENTITY – How to create a Construction box from concept to completion! I am truly honored and excited to introduce this new workshop to the Ghost Ranch community summer arts program!

My goal is to inspire, inform, guide, and empower you in an intuitive, serendipitous, and creative journey, whose discipline offers the potential for a lifelong venue of artistic expression.

I created my first construction box in the winter of 1982, as I needed to find a format in which I could illustrate newly gained knowledge from a class in Physics! Over the decades, I have created a variety of construction boxes in different sizes, topics, and materials such as wood, tin, and iPhone boxes.

I highly recommend:

1. Researching construction boxes in general, particularly those by Joseph Cornell, and creating an image library of your favorite boxes on your phone,



2. Choosing and bringing your box(s),
3. Selecting a specific theme, and
4. Gathering materials and images that will fit into your box to support your theme, prior to our first meeting in class.
- 5.

Although many of you may need the full length of the workshop to complete your box, be prepared to start a second box in case we have time. The second box can be an iPhone box.

Please feel free to introduce yourself and ask questions via email prior to our workshop. [JorgeluisSomarriba17@gmail.com](mailto:JorgeluisSomarriba17@gmail.com)

Once again, thank you for joining my workshop. I am excitedly looking forward to meeting and working with you!

Jorge Somarriba

## CONSTRUCTION BOX MATERIALS LIST

1. Bring to the Workshop a wooden box such as a cigar box, jewelry box, or handmade box not to exceed these dimensions: 12" x 8" x 3". The box may be open or with a lid.
2. If planning to decorate the exterior of the box, consider bringing acrylic paint and a brush, or decorative papers, and magazines, and Mod Podge to collage the box.



3. Identify the theme: Family, hobby, travel, pets, culture, faith, nationality, etc.

Please gather materials to support your theme and bring them to the workshop.

- Photographs, newspapers, maps, postcards, stamps, paper currency
- Coins, marbles, rubber stamps, keys, watches, pins, glasses, found objects
- Dry flowers, leaves, twigs, seeds, seashells, a bird's nest, pebbles, pearls, feathers, crystals, or quartz, incense cones, dried insects
- Fabrics, lace, buttons, thread, ribbons
- Poems, bus transfers, receipts, concert, airplane, movie tickets, stickers
- Ceramic tiles, magnets, tin cans, tokens, souvenirs, moving type
- Miniature books, bottles, furniture, musical instruments, sports equipment, cars, figurines, animals, boats, and anything which may inspire your creativity, support your theme, and set your imagination on fire!

#### TOOLS

- A self-healing mat surface for cutting, an X-acto knife and replacement blades, a 12" metal ruler, a pencil, a fine black Sharpie marker

#### ADDITIONAL MATERIALS PROVIDED BY WORKSHOP

- Balsa wood, bass wood, carpenter's glue, paper towels, matboard strips, super glue, spray glass cleaner, glass.



Workshop Itinerary:

Sunday, August 23: Introductions – Workshop, Instructor, students.

Monday, August 24: Conceptual phase, Slide show, Theme selection, selected materials, and boxes review, space distribution inside box, composing.

Tuesday, August 25: Technical phase and composition

Wednesday, August 26: Technical phase and composition continued

Thursday, August 27: Technical phase and composition continued

Friday, August 28: Completion of projects and exhibitions

Saturday, August 29. Closing / clean up