

# Project: Crown Me

Author and artist Annie Lockhart shares her vision in a project that is easily adaptable to the materials and ideas that have meaning to you, whether inspiration comes to you by way of literature, art, personal experience and history, or maybe even found objects.

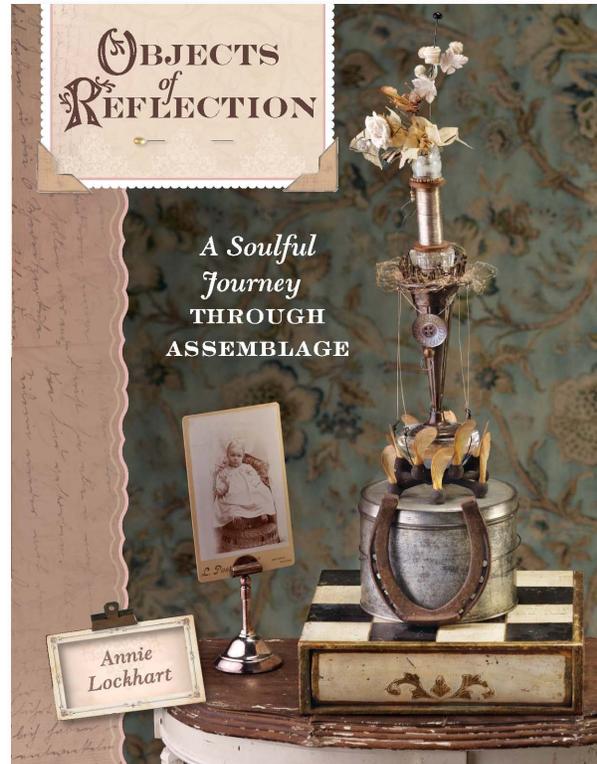
In this project, Lockhart, author of *Objects of Reflection*, illustrates the many kinds of elements that might be included in your masterpiece. She also helps to motivate you further down the path of creativity by providing a series of prompts, open-ended statements like, "I am indulging in ..." and "Self discovery means to me ...". By the time you're done you'll have made something that truly represents ... you.

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To learn more about or purchase *Objects of Reflection* by Annie Lockhart, [click here](#).

[www.CreateMixedMedia.com](http://www.CreateMixedMedia.com)

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Objects of Reflection is published by North Light Books, an imprint of F+W Media, Inc.



(From Objects of Reflection by Annie Lockhart, 2010. Courtesy of CreateMixedMedia.com)

# CROWN ME



If only for one hundred  
or so May days  
looking inside out  
crown me queen of wishes

Watching outside in  
a show of possibilities

Uncharted waters below,  
tiny lightening bugs shining the way,  
as magic swirls above,  
Make wishes by night,  
make peace by day





There are times when I just wire a few pieces together and set them somewhere in the studio, not knowing which finished piece they'll end up in, just that I like them together. That was the case with this piece. The bedspring and the little plastic handle element (to this day, I have no clue what that thing is!) were joined together, and then I just sat that atop a vintage iron hat stand. So, it was like having a little clown keeping me company on my work table, until one day I saw a crown instead of a clown . . . who knows, maybe I was feeling a little bit “Queenie” that day.

I began elaborating on this concept, adding the vintage iron plant holder, turned it upside down, and began wiring those together, which led me to the bones of a lampshade. At this point, I was only thinking of the crown. The metal box had been set aside, due to a bad collage job I had forced on it. I was frustrated with that and had no clue as to what, if anything, I'd ever do with it. For some reason I laid the crown on top of it because it was too top-heavy for the old hat stand. In that moment, I saw it as finding her home. Then it was just a matter of playing off that theme. The metal box had come with this shiny peely material on it, and it had a hinged lid. I really loved it just as it was, but I couldn't resist marrying these two great elements together.

For me, the box always spoke of a diorama—you know like the ones we made in elementary school, usually housed within a shoebox? Playing off the words “crown me,” I added a checkered floor with mirrored tiles and, of course, a throne (which, for me, had to be something that was nothing fancy—something with some earthiness to it). When I spotted a little



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twig chair that used to be an ornament, I sat it inside with some aged hem tape in my favorite color, added a mother-of-pearl button onto the back and the sweet face of a woman tintype nestled in as the head. Hence, I created my vision of what being a queen might look like in my world.

Framing the “screen” with torn fabric medical tape, narrow vintage velvet ribbon and chartreuse sequins (resurrected from one of those old beaded fruits from the 1950s), I then topped it off with a piece of Plexiglas, with holes drilled at all four corners to attach it to the box. The glass knobs added yet another layer and more weight to the front, helping to balance out the heaviness of the top. The tiny shells were an afterthought, as I decided that I wanted to add a bit of the ocean to her. I adore old sailor art, and these seemed to give the piece a touch of that.

The large brass ring on top acted as the perfect finishing touch to the crown. I embellished it with a beautiful antique rhinestone-studded element that I simply wrapped around it and secured with 22-gauge silver jewelry wire. The earthy, tarnished leaves and one of my favorite pins that I used to wear on one of my favorite vintage swing jackets just seemed at home right there, front and center. The center cutout of the top of the box helped me to add some more light to the inside, plus helped me to secure the wires that held it all together. Tiny battery-operated lights that have been softened with aged interfacing dangle within, like little lightening bugs twinkling above—childhood memories! Five-pointed stars, as I’ve mentioned before, are something I just love to incorporate, representing my home state of Texas and my five children (and, in this case, another ocean reminder!). As you work on your assemblages, and in your gathering, you’ll undoubtedly have these personal shards that will act as your signature, too. It’s what makes your work uniquely yours.

## TRIAL RUN

*Work backwards! If possible, do a mock set up before permanently attaching your elements together. I’ll even do a quick rough sketch and make side notes to myself as I think of things as I go along. You will save yourself some time in the long run.*



## PERSONAL PROMPTS

I AM INDULGING IN

I AM MAKING A SHIFT TOWARD

SELF-DISCOVERY MEANS TO ME

## LEGEND

1. Embellished topper—magical possibilities
2. Lampshade bones—crown
3. Strung mother-of-pearl buttons—wishes
4. Leaves—gifts of nature
5. White starfish—ocean gifts
6. Plastic flower brooch—beauty
7. Woven rhinestone trim—twinkle of stars
8. Box with screen—life television
9. Twig chair—throne
10. Mirrored checkered floor—checkers game board
- II. Brass handles—openness



Consider each of the objects here,  
and jot down your thoughts about  
what each might represent to you.



Egg .....

Garland .....

Lampshade .....

Throne .....

Vintage portrait .....

Twinkle lights .....



Sequins .....

Window .....

Knob .....

