

Staunton Public Library, Spring 2018, Book "Box" Exhibit
Artist, Gene Provenzo

Gene Provenzo is a recently retired university professor (University of Miami 1976-2013). Although his main work has been as an educational historian and cultural theorist, art and design have been constants in his professional life. Beginning in the late 1970s, he began to work on various projects involving innovative toy design, book design, the creation of museum exhibits, as well as multimedia and video game development. Inspired by the 1980 retrospective exhibit of the work of Joseph Cornell (1903-1972) at the Museum of Modern Art, he began to work as a collage and assemblage artist.

The "boxes" included in this exhibit each represent a famous title in children or adult literature. They stand on their own as artistic works and homages to the writers and words they wrote. They are also often visual puns or rebuses. The viewer will hopefully come to this exhibit with the same open and playful sense that the artist experienced in creating these works.