

# THE ARTS

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## FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

Jacob Deatherage makes custom-made journals from vintage books at Ex Libris Anonymous in Astoria

By **JONATHAN WILLIAMS**  
FOR COAST WEEKEND

When Jacob Deatherage was living in Seattle in 1999, the businessman Paul Allen gave him \$5,000 to leave the apartment he was living in after Allen bought the building.

This became the nucleolus of Deatherage's now nearly 20-year-old business, Ex Libris Anonymous, where he makes custom-made journals from recycled vintage books.

He's worked in Seattle, Portland and Eugene before coming to Astoria.

His shop, located at 1191 Marine Drive, sits in the former space of Thompson's Instrument Repair and has been open since February.

The space has been remade, with a giant bookshelf visible from the street that reaches from floor to ceiling. Deatherage's corgi, Crumpton, greets visitors from his perch on the couch when they come in.

With colorful, hardcover books from diverse topics such as "Life in Europe: Italy" to "Guide to Modern English," and beloved Dr. Seuss books, customers can select the book they want made into a journal.

Deatherage saves the cover and a few pages from the book before adding in white paper and a plastic coil to hold the journal together.

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**ABOVE:** Jacob Deatherage, who owns and operates Ex Libris Anonymous in Astoria, punching holes in a journal.

**LEFT:** The storefront of Ex Libris Anonymous located at 1191 Marine Drive in Astoria.

Photos by Jonathan Williams