

Communication From Members Of The Guild Of American Papercutters April 2020

Check In With Mindy

As I write this Covid-19 is wreaking havoc all over the world, so many people are sick and dying, some are sick and healing, and many are staying in trying not to get sick in the first place. I see these vector models of what the virus looks like and some of them are very colorful and I think "aren't those beautiful colors" and then I have to remember that I am staring at the enemy. You see I love color and associate bright colors with happy times. We are not in happy times but I trust this is a temporary situation. We will mourn, deeply mourn those we have lost. People who have lost jobs will hopefully get rehired, the stock market will rebound.

We are also coming up to Passover and Easter, two holiday that often involve being around friends, family, and for some of us attending religious services. It will all be different this year.

Since we have to stay inside most of the time, as an artist, I feel rather luckily. I had seven classes alone that I was due to teach in March cancelled, it freed up time for those art projects and commissions just waiting to happen. There is always something to create, right?

For those of us who sometime need inspiration for creativity, check out the GAP Facebook page. We have over 1000 members. How I wish each and everyone was a member of GAP, nonetheless, there are wonderful papercuts posted from all over the world. I am

constantly reminded how diverse our art form is.

I am hoping that the next time I write, we are on the other side of this virus, with less cases being reported, less people in the hospital and more people on the mend. Until then, keep making art.

-Mindy Shapiro



Mastheads

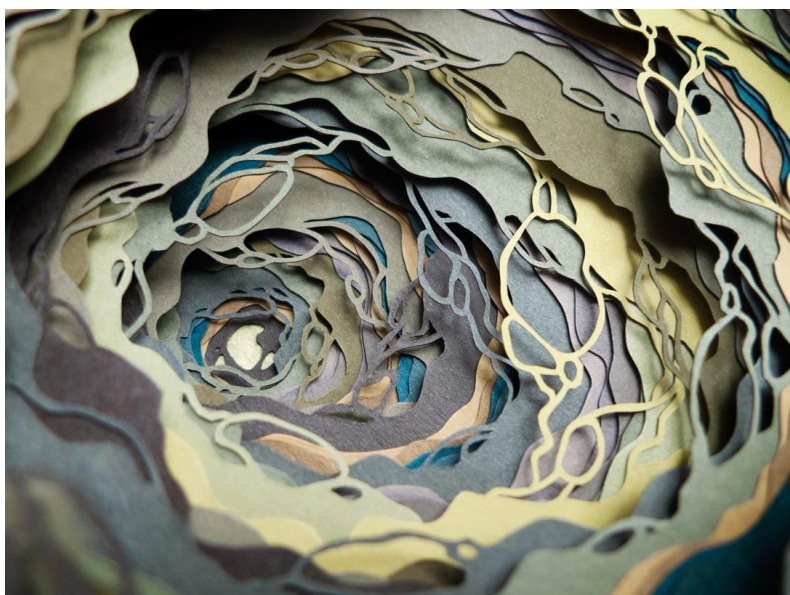
I was beyond excited when member, Jeri Fogel dug up this treasure trove of vintage GAP mastheads. The gem at the top of this issue, originally designed by member Ingrid Schenck seemed especially fitting today as so many people return to classic crafts as a way to seek comfort. At this point we're all aware of (and maybe feeling on overload with) the ripple effect of bad news this pandemic has cause. But one thing that is undeniable is that it has spurred a tremendous amount of creativity. Have a new idea for a masthead? We'd love to see it!

-Rosa Leff

Roll Call!

All of us are in the midst of adjusting to a new normal be it telecommuting, lost income, changes in our health, worrying for the well being of our loved ones, shifting our studios into our homes, being with our children 24/7, or just doing our best to pass the time spent indoors.

For this First Cut we asked you to share your new normal with us. What does your Monday look like? How has your life changed, or not, in these past few weeks. Have the poorly stocked shelves turned you into an inventive Chopped Champion chef? Read on to find out what Guild Members across the works are up to.



Hazel Glass

Greetings,

Well, next weekend I was supposed to be attending the opening of Abstract Sanctuary VII at Verum Ultimum Gallery. It is a special show for me because it marks the 3 year anniversary of when I began exhibiting my work there. Then after that I was to fly to Switzerland for the opening reception of the International Paper Triennial at the Charmey Museum. I was looking forward to meeting some paper artist friends who live in Europe, who also made it into the exhibition. Now that the event has been postponed, it's unlikely I'll be able to go on that adventure. This breaks my heart.

However, as a workaholic with a home studio, my day-to-day life hasn't changed much. This is just one way I am lucky through this, and that's what I'm focusing on. I'm grateful that my partner is also self-employed and can work from home. I'm grateful that we recently moved into a wonderful neighborhood where we can go for nature walks. And of course I'm grateful that my best coping mechanism is making paper art, and I can continue on with that in the safety of my home. I just have to remember to take breaks ;)

I've shared a photo of the work that is in the art museum exhibition in Switzerland, and of a teensy tiny lighthouse I cut out for a current project.

Abstract Sanctuary VII is going to become an online show, but I don't have concrete dates yet.

All of my social media and website links are below.

Stay safe!

Cheers,

Hazel

<http://artbyhazelglass.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/ArtbyHazelGlass/>

<https://www.instagram.com/hazelsebastianglass/>

www.pinterest.com/artbyhazelglass/

Cynthia Herrick

I am Cynthia Herrick and live with my cat Boots in my house in Belgrade, Maine. I am well thankfully and really appreciate that I have a nephew who lives not far away. He and his wife check on me and do my grocery shopping, insisting I stay away from large groups of people. I don't know what I'd do without them in this horrible time.



I'm doing my own house cleaning now, since my cleaning lady won't be cleaning here or anywhere else anytime soon. I do get outside to walk as I live in a very rural area. I used to get in my car and go anywhere I wanted to go, but now I think twice before doing that. In fact I drive only to my mailbox and back in bad weather. I read a lot, but I haven't done much paper cutting lately.

Honoring Maine women, this is my original design and one of my paper cuttings honoring Abbie Burgess, a lighthouse keeper, and the heroine of Matinicus Rock. For an Art in Bloom event in early March, featuring floral arrangements inspired by children's literature, I used patterns to cut out and construct this scene from "Alice in Wonderland."

Lorraine Bubar

Hi,
Thanks for reaching out to everyone.

These two images reflect how I am feeling and what I am doing with my busy, creative hands.

I am participating in an on-line collaborative project, "Call and Response." I encourage others to start their own. Pair up with another artist. One artist creates a piece and posts it. The other artist has 24 hours to create a piece in response.

This can continue as long as the quarantine lasts, or as long as you want. For my project, at the end of two weeks, all of the images will be posted on-line and all of the artists are going to participate in a Zoom Art Opening. Be Safe and Stay Healthy.

Lorraine Bubar

www.lorrainebubar.com



Margaret Hebener

Now is a time for gathering up. It's easy to believe that it's a time for panicking, for nervous glances about us in the grocery store, but I believe it a time for deep breaths, for long cups of tea, and for taking account of where we are.

During this time, I am devoting myself to organizing my space, finishing old projects, and quiet reflection over my books of poetry. In the chaos around me, I found myself slipping into the same disorder. *I can't control this.* No, but I can create order from the chaos of my studio. I can organize my bookshelf and finish half-forgotten projects. I find comfort in making meaning out of something when chaos and meaninglessness seem to reign on TV and on the internet and in the air at the grocery store. I turn off the TV, turn on my audiobook of CS Lewis' Space Trilogy, and organize my space. And I believe by organizing my surroundings, I organize myself.

I am back to work. I work as an educator online, and with so many children out of school, I am working a lot. But I can still take my spare time and create a calm place to be.

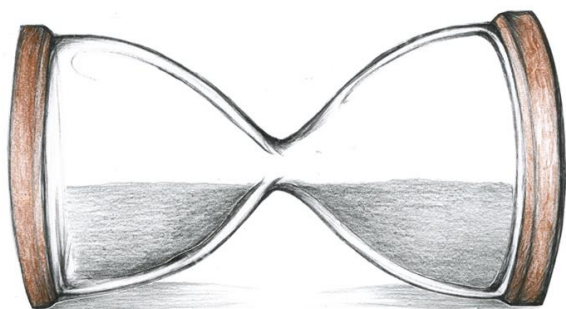
If you'd like to follow me on social media or just send me an email to say hi, please do!

Margaret Herbener

morningcloudshine@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/morningcloudshine>

<https://www.instagram.com/morningcloudshine/>



Can time stand still? It sure feels like it!

I can not keep track of the days and each day passes so quickly yet it still feels like every day is a year. It is still hard to believe that our world changed so quickly. Yes, I can hear the birds in my backyard at dawn and I can hear the rustling of leaves at dusk. I would rather measure time by the sound of my alarm clock in the morning because I have to get up and get out of the house and by the sound of voices of children in the street after school.

Lorraine Bubar



Read Page 3 of this issue to find out how Lorraine is doing!

Sarah Madison

Hi Folks!

I'm writing from western Massachusetts, US, where my husband, dog and I are in week 3 of self-imposed isolation. We find the toughest challenge is not knowing what day it is, due to the lack of daily routines and appointments!

I'm retired so am passing the time engaged in a variety of crafts. I'm currently exploring layered collage art, utilizing my own edited photographs combined with paper cut vintage images. (Attached is my first piece, with the goal of simply learning the process.) My husband, Mark, is a teacher who is now making the adjustment to online classes. When not chatting with his students, he works on nurturing his garden seeds indoors, and prepping the outdoor beds for warm weather planting. And when weather allows, we enjoy long walks with our dog, Emma, (a trained therapy dog who clearly misses her interactions with her clients right now!).

Social media allows us to keep up with friends and family, and streaming services keep us entertained and informed. But we confess that we'll be glad when quarantine-season ends!



Dave Jenkins

I continue to commute to my studio in the basement. Although the spring craft shows have been cancelled in Northern Virginia, I'm working on some projects for the fall, including a few inspired by our safari in Botswana earlier this year. Meanwhile, I recently completed a commission for a new version of my "Mammal Alphabet" (complete with an okapi, no less!), and a new piece based on that classic seafood dish, "Clams Casino." (website: davidjenkinspapercuttings.com, David Jenkins papercuttings on Facebook.)

Dorothy Buchanan

I am well and keeping busy. I start the day with Qigong exercise (find it on you tube, also how to make a mask using paper towels and rubber bands, when I wear it I'm reminded to keep my hands off my face.) I walk outside every day and enjoy the beautiful spring flowers that are just starting to appear. I'm relearning to play the recorder. I planted these pansies beside my front door. This mandala design I cut from a book, Kigami Mandalas, which included designs and beautiful paper. This morning I heard a beautiful song on NPR "Turn off the News and Build a Garden With Me".



Gabriela Studer

Hello !

also in switzerland we have lockdown..we try to deal with it as good as possible..like everybody else,we are at home to save lives..

for me as a creative person it is not that hard..i love to dedicate all my time to paper cutting. I like being at home, I enjoy the peace and quiet and the garden, I cut a lot and walk with the dog, I never get bored. nevertheless I hope that times will change again and we all stay healthy. Unfortunately, of course, all next exhibitions and events have been postponed or cancelled. I was looking forward to the international paper art triennial in Charmey, fortunately it will take place later this year. I think it will be an eventful autumn and winter, let's look forward to it !!

on the pictures you see what I'm working on, and...me

if you like to see more...

www.gabystuder.com

www.instagram.com/gabystuderpaperartist

best wishes, stay safe and healthy,
gaby



Andrea Martin

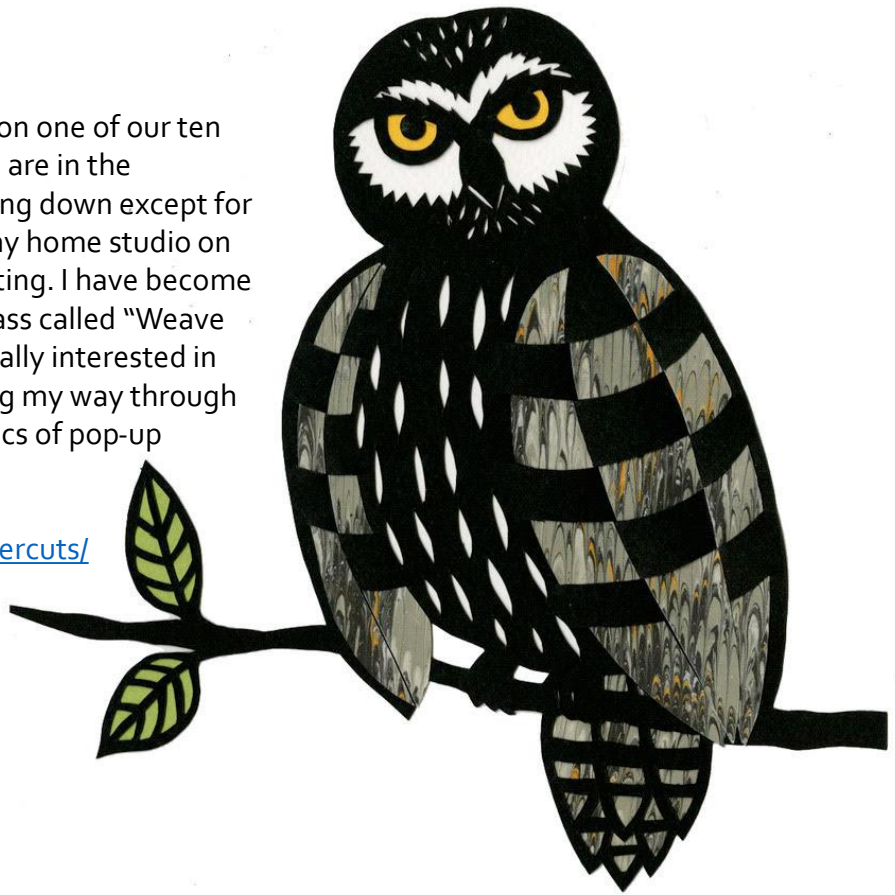
Greetings from MN where "ice out" was declared on one of our ten thousand lakes this week. Since my husband and I are in the vulnerable age group for Covid-19, we are hunkering down except for our daily bike rides. I am also happily working in my home studio on projects that are only slightly related to paper cutting. I have become interested in paper weaving and took an online class called "Weave Through Winter" (see owl picture). I seem to be really interested in learning new skills at this time so I am also working my way through tutorials that teach the design and paper mechanics of pop-up cards. My very best to you all!

Website: www.andrearmartin.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AndreaMartinPapercuts/

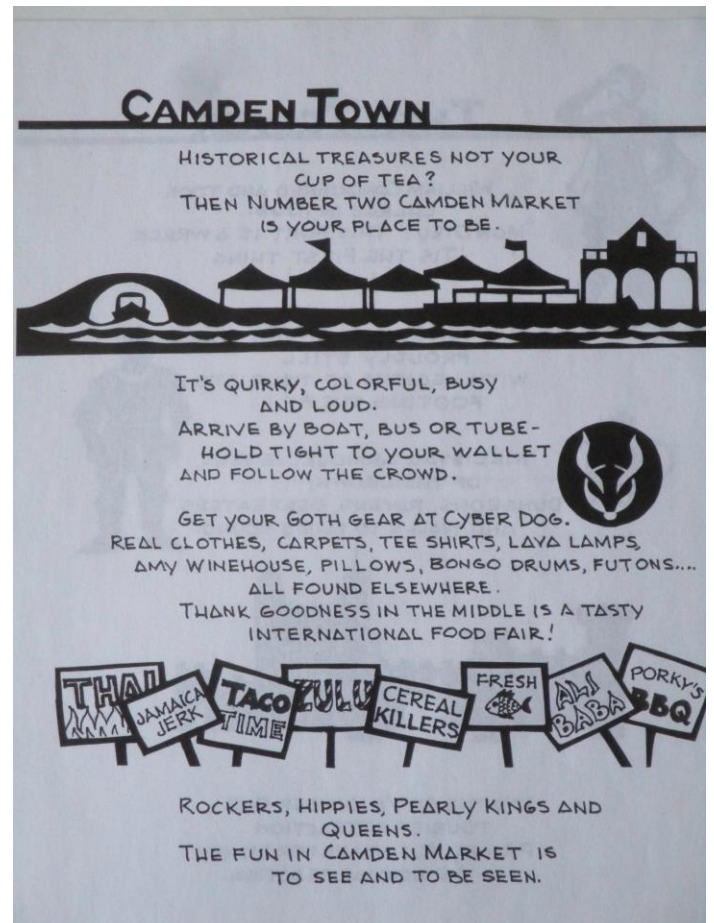
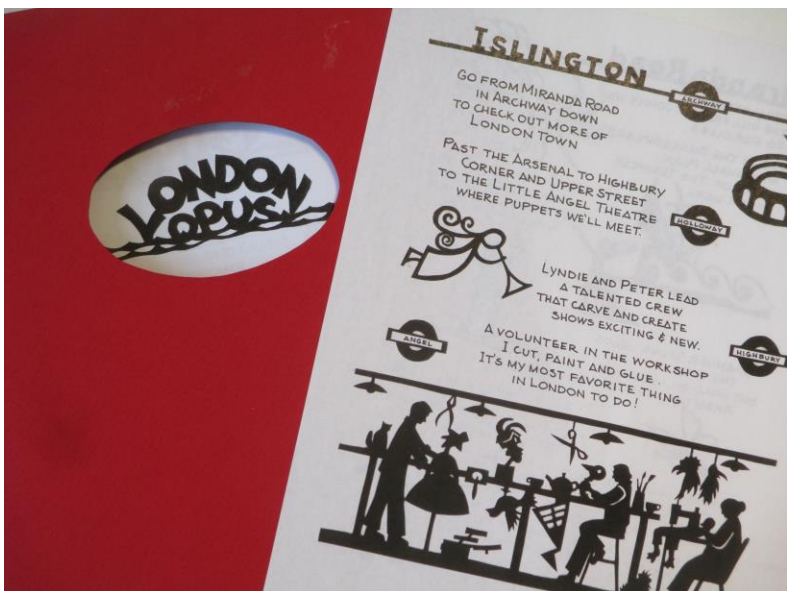
Instagram: mnpaperart

Twitter: @AndreaM48



Linda Emmerson

Greetings from Flyover Country, where we are going nowhere, seeing no one and waiting for the inevitable, which many of you are experiencing now. We're fortunate to have 2 children nearby who deliver supplies, and we can take walks and enjoy spring days. I've had plenty of time to finish one long simmering project -- a "book" about our years in London, including a quirky tour of local sights, famous or not. Lots of other deferred projects beckon, but this was more fun. Be careful out there. Cheers, Linda Emmerson



Beth Ann Magnuson

I live in [Bishop Hill, IL](#), population 100. This state and national historic landmark was founded by Swedish immigrants in 1846. It is remote, bounded on all sides by farmland. Isolation is a way of life here and many of its residents honker down in winter crafting historic wares to be sold at our festivals held throughout the year. I've always loved designing with paper: sculpture, graphics, landscapes and silhouettes. In 2021, Bishop Hill will celebrate its 175th anniversary. By then I hope to have cut paper profile portraits (silhouettes) of most its residents, visitors, and friends to mount as a display marking this special milestone. Many portraits cut this winter were of village children in the guise of antlered fawns, winged fairies, Lucia girls and star boys.

As Easter approaches, my artistic focus always turns to egg carving. Early spring is spent making ornaments that I [sell on etsy](#). This year, in the midst of growing concerns over the spreading virus, I stumbled across a website featuring the quilled designs of paper artist, [Lisa Nilsson](#), whose Japanese mulberry paper works were so astonishing, I was inspired to apply this ancient paper technique to decorating eggshells. Such fine detailed work takes full concentration and lots of time. In fact, I'm still working on my first egg! This discovery came at just the right time. New artistic endeavors lift my spirit in times of severe stress. This exploration has made social distancing much easier to bear!

I've included a photo of eggs that are incomplete. In my case, the pleasure in experimenting with this new technique, has actually impeded my ability to complete a single work! Examples are rough but are loads o' fun to make.

Warmest wishes for a healthy spring to you and yours.

Beth Ann Magnuson
[The Feathered Nest](#)



Dena Levie

You guys are awesome

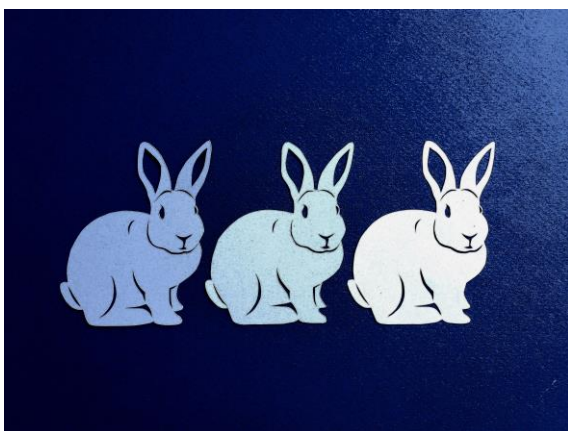
Things are crazy here in Teaneck, NJ. You may have heard about us on the news. We have many friends in the hospital. Our whole family had coronavirus and my husband is on his third week. I think he is feeling a bit better today. In terms of my studio, sadly, I cant seem to get motivated. I have 5 orders but they all seem to be on hold. I was hoping to do something this week. Maybe your email was my push to do that! Stay!!

Dena Levie
www.judaicpapercuts.com

Val Macaraeg

Hello Val Macaraeg from Port Moody, BC been feeling all the feels. As a person with a compromised immune system I have been laying pretty low but adjusting to this weirdness Nature keeps me grounded so once a week we hop in the car and drive into the wilderness to reactivate and rejuvenate. It's been amazing to watch artists across the board share their creativity with templates, tips, online workshops, many from this group 🐼 Been great to see how in this time Art has been the go to activity for healing, for families with children, as an outlet for feelings, a focus on the positive, the list goes on. It's been just what I needed. Keep Creating. Stay Safe and Well.

Instagram: made_the_cut_papercuts



Megg Sorensen

Hi there,
This is Megg Sorensen, wycinanki artist behind Sparrow Papercraft...

I'm lucky that my art studio is in my home, so I'm still able to create. However this time of year is usually full of festivals and markets here in Louisiana, and with all those cancelled, the bulk of my upcoming opportunities are gone. I've been making some wycinanki bookmarks since I and so many others have been using this time to catch up on reading. I've been spending even more time on the phone with my wycinanki teacher and lifelong friend, Doris Sikorsky, who used to be very active in GAP! She's doing well and thankfully has folks checking in on her back in Chicago. My friend who still has an income right now was kind enough to commission a piece. He's a fish biologist and wanted an alligator gar, paddlefish, and American eel, which was fun to depict. I'll be the featured artist in next month's issue of the Sea Lion zine put out by Emily Prentice (Wayward Daughter), so that's exciting! Everything else is up in the air, but I'm thankful to have my health and a nice country home in which to isolate. I hope everyone else is healthy and safe!



Linda Miller

The pictures are from some of my students the mid week in March before the school closed. My class at John C Campbell Folk School was during Scandinavian week. We also surface designed paper with alcohol inks and water and Suminagoshi inks and used them for backgrounds and other cuttings. The pic on the right is with torn paper and acrylic background.



Jason Koons

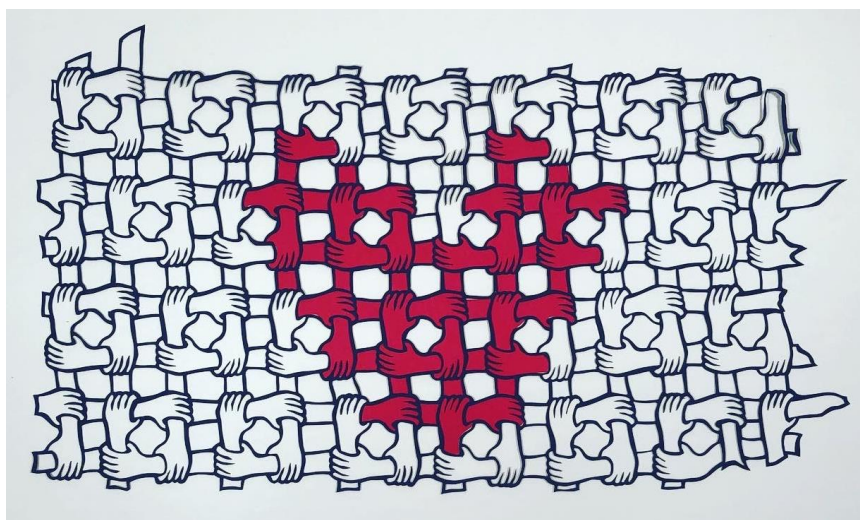
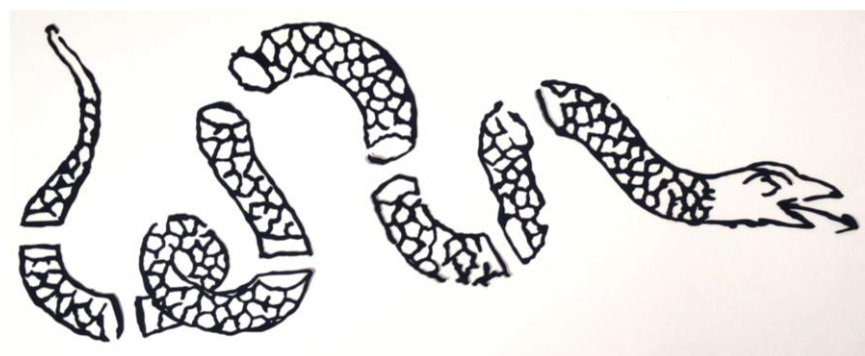
Dear GAP,

First and foremost, during these truly unprecedented times, I sincerely hope that you and your families are doing well and that you are all in good health. I am well, and I am lucky that my family is also in good health.

Like many of us, my initial response to being forced to stay home resulted in two main activities - Tiger King and cleaning/organizing my entire home! Since then we've just been managing our children's online schooling, and our own jobs remotely as well.

Mostly though, I have been feeling a sense of patriotism - one of the first things I did was hang my American flag back up outside my house. I hope that we can come together as a country and as a collective people to really conquer this virus. I think the two artworks I produced over the course of the first week of the quarantine reflect this sentiment.

I wish you all good luck and good health. Stay safe!



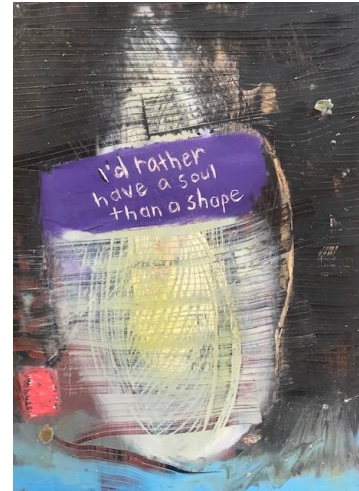


Virginia Flynn

Hello from Portland, Oregon.

My husband and I are holed up in Hood River, 60 miles east of Portland, where we enjoy our little house that sits on five acres of pastoral land.

This year I was invited to teach a papercut workshop at Menucha, a retreat center in Corbett on the Columbia River Gorge. Last week, anxious about the virus, the director made the decision to cancel



all sixteen workshops. Very disappointing. I'm doing ok, have been going through all of my journals and diaries that have been sitting in a box since 1980. I have created quite a sizable burn pile.

Best wishes to all of you!

Virginia Flynn

Jessica Alpern Brown

My studio is in my home so it would seem safe to assume that my work day wouldn't change much. However, my 4 year old son is now home all day too! My husband has taken on the role of teacher and we're trying to maintain a routine, but I still get lots of "studio visits" throughout the day. He is VERY helpful. :) My practice has adjusted accordingly and I now do a lot of my work after he's in bed. I had meant to take a break after finishing a large project, but I feel like, if I'm not making, I might explode. I'm currently adding to an ongoing project about empathy called [A List in Portraits](#) and I've JUST started making [time-lapse videos](#) of a series of veils I'm cutting. I find it soothing and I hope other people will as well.



Website - <https://www.jessicaalpernbrown.com/>

Instagram -

<https://www.instagram.com/jessicaalpernbrown/>



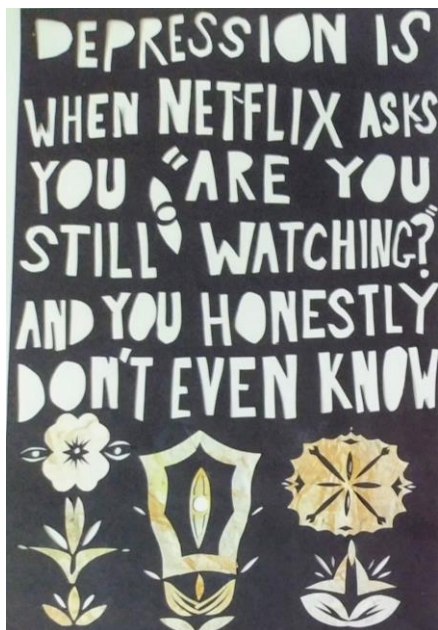
Claire Zezula

Even though this is an unsettling time, we are thankful my son is home from New York City and studying for his final medical school exams. Soon he will be on the front line! No graduation for him this year, but he is itching to get out there and help. I am sewing masks for my family, my extended family, and for assisted living in our area. My grandkids are getting kits in the mail with fun things to do! It's a good time to count your blessings.



Jodi Larson

On Instagram: [jodi.larson.quareshi](https://www.instagram.com/jodi.larson.quareshi)



This is day 22 of isolation. I'm still working half of my "day job" from home which leaves more time for art. Too bad that art has to share space with all the anxiety and uncertainty that an economic depression and global pandemic bring. Many of the paper art that I learned as a kid were from my grandmothers during the 1930s as they were poor and a farm and you can still make wonderful things from old newspapers and grocery bags and accordion dolls out of leftover envelopes. I don't think I'll be raiding the disinfected junk mail quite yet as I inherited art-supply hoarding tendencies from that same generation.



During "normal" times, I'd have to choose whether to work on a contemporary papercut or a traditional papercraft and I never got time to work on victorian hair art or drag out my stick weaving or teach myself a new something. Not commuting to work for eight hours per week at least gives me time to diversify. Which is great because if art is my chosen therapy, then eight more hours of it a week is very necessary.

Barbara Dyer



I am still required to report to work at an Illinois prison. I work with records, calculation of sentences, movement data entries and liaison to the state's parole board. We're busy every day. Today we were told that one of the staff tested positive for covid19.

I thought since my routine had not been disrupted as much as others, I wouldn't feel the stress. But it is there, showing us as a compulsion to check for news and stats repeatedly through the evening. I haven't been as productive as I expected.

I have been enjoying GAP member fb posts. Because of some of these, I plan to try a couple new things, (new to me). One is curtains. I have an old house on a busy small town street. People are taking more walks and some homes are putting things in the windows to help lift spirits. Right now, you can go on a bear hunt looking for Teddy bears peaking out to wave hello. This weekend will switch to palm branches or spring flowers. I think papercut curtains would be the most interesting thing I could display for my neighbors. Writing about it is making me want to get started. I have 34 windows. Wouldn't that be something to see if they were all decorated with paper lace.

The best thing I see coming out of our virus crisis is that many people are finding creative and kind ways to deal with it, for others as well as themselves.

I have attached my newest piece. I like it but see where I can make some improvements.

Janelle Washington

I am a wheel of different emotions that turns throughout the day. I have been working from home for awhile before the pandemic hit so being inside wasn't that hard for me, but the fact that I can't go out when I want to is frustrating. March, April, and May were supposed to be exciting months for me. I had new events that I was involved in, workshops that I was excited to teach and get paid for and travel that I had planned. I learned early in my life that life doesn't always go as planned and that I need to be able to flow and bend like water in a river. I know that new opportunities will come - and they actually have in the last week or so.

I am sad and irritated with what is going on around the world and am trying to process it daily. While we wait this out I decided to continue to finish some designs for events that had canceled and allow myself to create whatever comes to my mind. I was involved in a recycled dress fashion show that was supposed to show for May so I am finishing the dress anyway. I learned how to use my paper scraps from my paper cut designs to make recycled paper and then use the "new" paper to create a dress. Since the show is canceled I can take my time and experiment a bit more with the paper. This has been a relaxing process. For the time being I can create without a purpose or with time constraints. Hoping my time during this will result in growth in my artwork and knowledge of new techniques.

Online resource/art worksheet using my art

@ <http://artspacenc.org/online-resources/>

You can follow me on

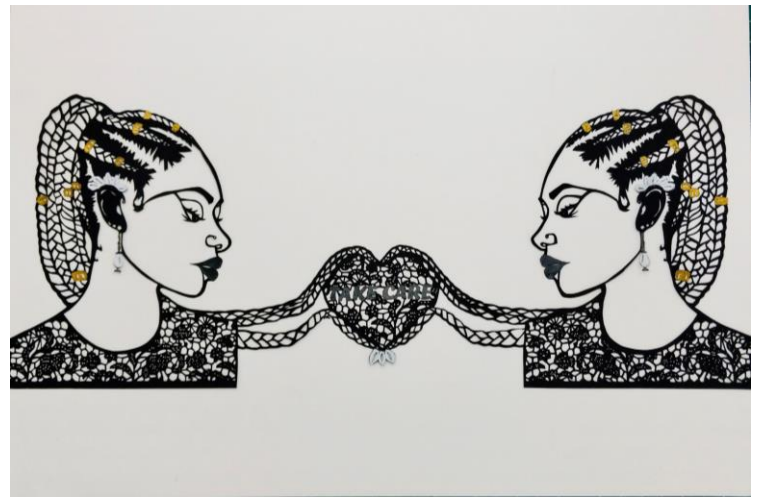
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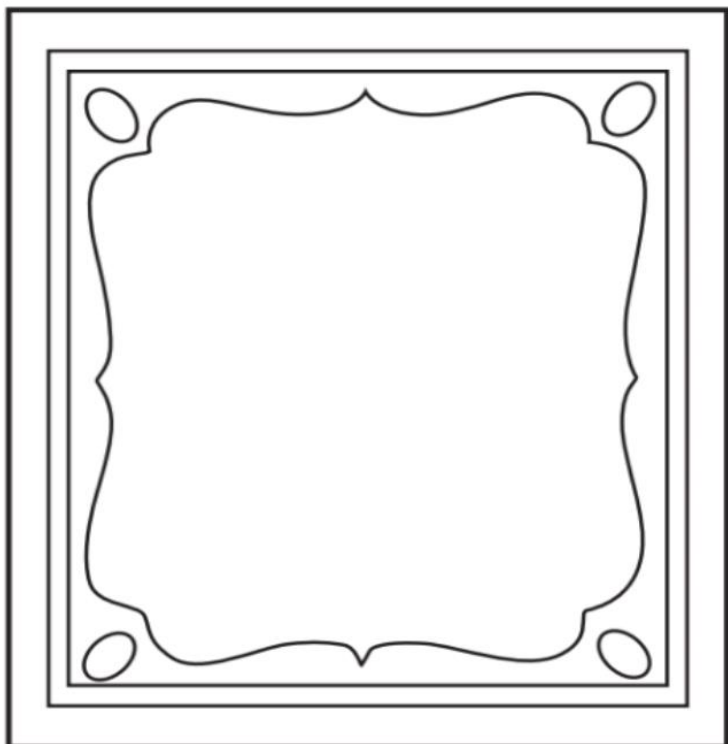
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Look + Learn:



➤ Draw a portrait of a friend or family member!

Janelle Washington creates beautiful and expressive portraits to promote and celebrate one's self and culture. Through a simple color scheme, the artist highlights the aspects of a person that make them unique.



Janelle Washington, *Young Adult*,
cut paper, 15 x 12 inches



About Janelle Washington

Jambo! My name is Janelle Washington and I am a papercut artist. I create inspirational papercuts and silhouettes for my customers who have pride in their cultural heritage, family, values self-love and celebrating who they are.

Creating papercuts is all about playing with the positive and negative spaces to create a multifaceted art piece. Do you remember creating and making snowflakes as a kid in elementary school? You start with something plain and you cut away until you have a unique and beautiful snowflake. That's what I do, just on a grander scale.

I strive to create artwork to celebrate my history and rich African American culture. From African proverbs that convey traditional wisdom to custom silhouettes that reflect natural hair, each piece will inspire you to be better, uplift you by reminding you of where you came from and encourage you by showing you positive images of African American beauty.

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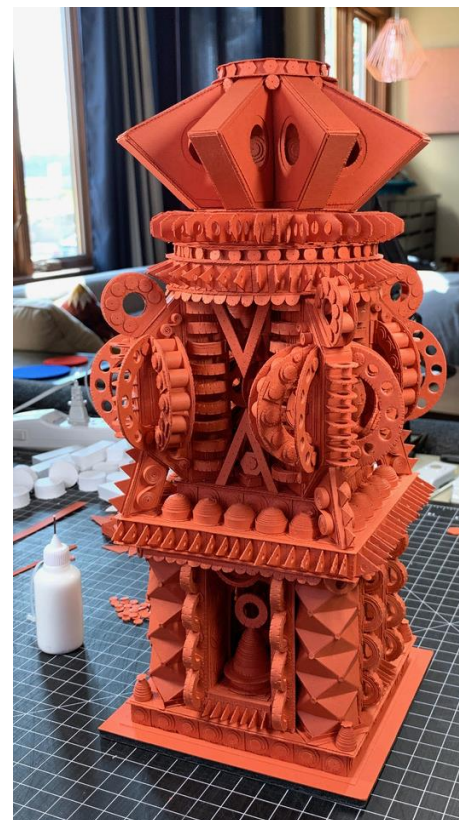
#ArtspaceLearningLab #ArtspaceNC

Michael Velliquette

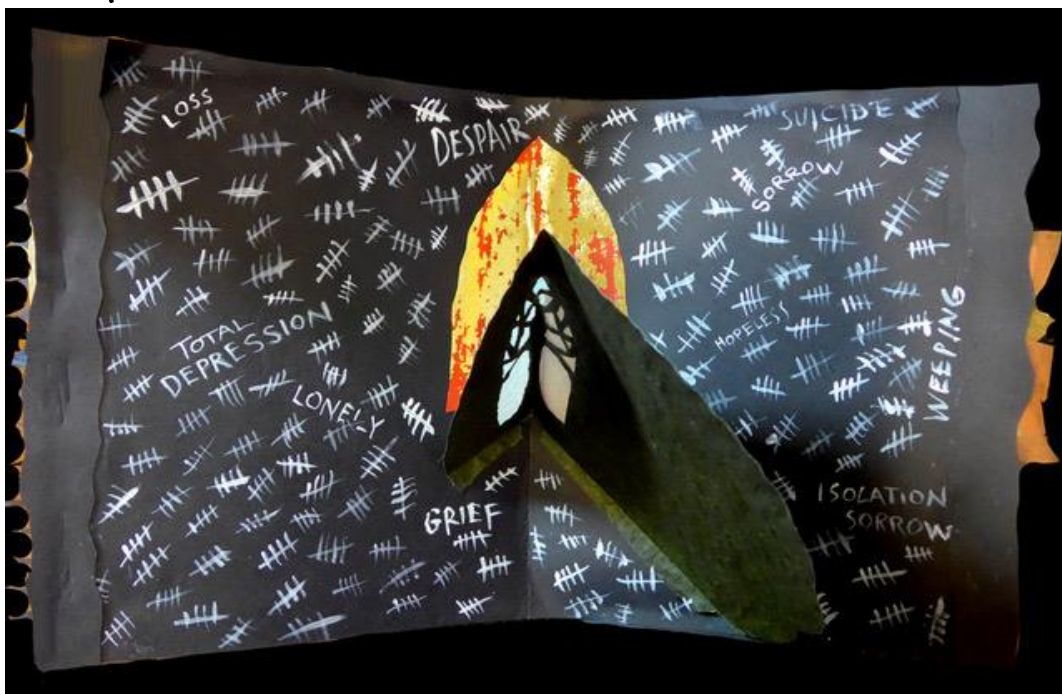
All things considered I feel like one of the lucky ones so far. I was able to transition from working in my studio to home relatively smoothly. My work is sculptural—the things I make with paper have been described as imaginary architectural models or three-dimensional mandalas. I don't need much space to make this work and the tools and supplies are easily transportable. So, I set up a few folding tables in my living room and have been able to work here each day.

I'm currently have one of my free-standing "tower" works in progress. This one is made from 250 gsm Daler Rowney Canford Card Stock, the color is called "Terracotta". I'm able to work on it between 4-5 hours per day depending on what other tasks (and distractions) arise. Probably like everyone else right now it's hard to gauge the passage of time. The days seem to be passing quickly, but when I think about the long weeks ahead it seems daunting. I'm happy to have my work to come back to each day. It's a refuge from the strangeness of our current condition.

-Be well friends!



Sally Blakemore



Hello Paper Cutters,

Santa Fe is locked down and people are quiet and scared. Artists are entertaining us all on YOUTUBE and choirs are singing on the trails and arroyos, out in the sun. It is a sad time of fear. Fear and creativity cannot share the same space. Expressing fear, like in my book about having ZOSTER VIRUS and enduring unbelievable pain, this book allowed me to try and define all the kinds of pain the body can interpret.

Here I have illustrated in 5 spreads, the onset of the virus, which is absolutely disgustingly, nauseating with vertigo and collapse. The shock to the system of the take over of a virus produces an unbelievable delirium and agony. It is not just a rash but a viral protein evolved to destroy the inside of the ganglia or an organ all the way to the surface of the body.

I learned a lot about grief. Grief has to be expressed. If you store it, these viruses, the viral experience seems to attach old grief to new pain. It was a two year experience that just as I was getting back on my feet the entire world is in Quarantine with me. Stay strong. Find any joy you can. Sing and hum through the pain and be extremely cautious right now. We have already lost a friend from the Corona virus yesterday. BE SAFE. *(More images on next page.)*



Volha Palunisa

I did a course on "Intuitive vycinanka" in March. It was 4 chats for two hours once a week. We managed to conduct them before people started avoiding public places. And I'm glad we made it! This was a very unusual and inspiring practice! We entered the sacred world of vycinanka through a special emotional atmosphere and tuning in to the waves of intuition. We touched the deep symbolism of traditional art. We were connecting with our inner mythology. We allowed this miracle to manifest itself in paper. Our hands and our scissors helped us in this!

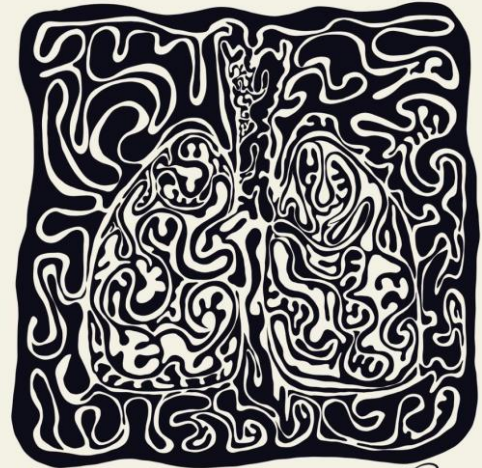
Wedding is always beautiful! I made decorations for the wedding table in the style of a traditional Belarusian vytynanka. These are paper cut-out napkins with birds-a symbol of mutual love. We don't have a quarantine in our country, but we feel isolated. Activity in society has decreased. But it allowed me to finish my book today. My book tells about my vytynanka and my thoughts. It's more like a diary with illustrations. I believe that soon everything will return to normal. And people will appreciate live communication and co-creation even more!



David Friedman

Dear Fellow Guild Members:

The virus that has affected all our lives seems all encompassing of all aspects of our lives right now. I keep hearing that we are, say, 2 weeks behind Spain, so that we are only at the beginning of this thing and may be seeing much more tragedy coming. I feel impotent to do anything except listen to the stay at home guidelines and protect my family as best as possible. I go out for shopping every two weeks making sure that I am the first in line at the store and getting it done as quickly and efficiently as possible. And then there is dog walking. I live one block from a park so mostly we just head there staying away from other people to our best ability while the dog play together or when we are there solo, playing fetch with a bright green nubby ball that reminds me of the coronavirus. Otherwise, I am home either working on paid design projects, drawing or watching the news. I haven't been doing much papercutting. Lots of designs that I plan to cut soon, but I haven't picked up my x-acto knife in a couple weeks. Here a couple of the coronavirus designs I've done in the last week and photo of my puppy, Poppi. Follow me on instagram and other social media as **friedart**. I hope you all stay safe and healthy. (Pictured: *NO Touching – WASH Hands!, Poppi, and BREATHE!*)



Marc Schweizer

I am currently living in Switzerland with my wife. Here we are facing the same problems. Corona is controlling our lives and we have to stay at home. But with the bad comes something good in return. I am currently preparing for an exposition in Venice for the Michelangelo Foundation. It is my biggest opportunity to show my work so far. They expect up to 100'000 visitors which blows my mind. So the circumstances with corona help me to focus on my work and give me something to look forward to.

All the best and stay safe.



Susan Throckmorton

Hi Everyone,

I'm checking in from Warsaw, Poland, where I am on lockdown. Here we have no planes or mail to or from foreign countries, and mostly everything is closed except for pharmacies, grocery stores (with special hours for people over 65—that's me!), gas stations, post offices, and only restaurants which supply take-out food. Protective gloves and disinfectants are supplied at the doors of many of these places, and the number of customers are limited to a only few at one time. So far there aren't any serious shortages and little panic buying, and most people are keeping indoors and practicing social distancing when outside. There are fines for people congregating in groups, and there are occasional police cars roaming about reminding people of the rules and enforcing them.

For me, it is a little difficult at times being the only one in my apartment, but in usual circumstances, I'm a bit of a hermit anyway, and social media, the telephone, my Kindle and TV keep me occupied. I do, however, sometimes feel like a prisoner, and miss meeting with friends at a cafe and talking with them face-to-face or getting exercise by zooming around the neighborhood with my Nordic sticks. I am worried too that I will not be able to make my annual trip to the States in June and may miss the GAP conference.....that is, if it will still be on.

During this difficult time, however, I feel blessed to have my papercutting to do! I'm sending along some pictures I have completed during this difficult time. The first was made at the beginning when my thoughts were a bit scrambled, so that's how I made the picture—just lines scribbled all over a large piece of white paper with black ink, and then I cut out the blank spaces between and improvised with more and more lines as I went along. Then I pasted some colored squares behind so it looked as though I had planned it all the time! Two are designs with layered pieces of colored paper (a technique used here a lot in Poland), and the other is a large picture entitled "The Paper Chase" which pictures a paper monster chasing me which is made up of all the paper scraps I swept off my floor from various papercutting projects. I've also been tutoring on via Email and Messenger the sister of a former student of mine who lives on an island off the coast of Denmark and is sequestered with 2 small children and desperately needs some projects to do.

Virtual hugs to all and I hope everyone is well and safe and also busy with new papercutting projects too.





"The Paper Chase" by Sue Throckmorton



Petrina Case

Sister Clarice Steinfeldt, SDS

I am not doing much cutting these days....but I did ✂ letters for a 8 x 11 poster to invite the retired Sisters with whom I'm living to a Sing along. Seven of fourteen joined and I did the leading of song. Four of us who got the initiative, plus à three others appeared. After singing for 40 minutes, we concluded our time together with the plan to meet again on Wednesday for a second Sing and Chat session.I

PS: FYI: I joined GAP in 1995 and have participated in meetings and involvement over these years. My work is exhibited in our Sisters' Gallery in our all girl's high school, Divine Savior Holy Angels in Milwaukee. Although my studio is in the Gallery, I have been working out of my bedroom at my residence which is about five minutes from the studio/Art Gallery.1

For this months First Cut, I would like to share what I am doing and feeling– coping in response to this pandemic. Nervous, jittery mostly but art and my puppies help with calming. When I feel overwhelmed, I try to do something nice for someone else. I like mailing my papercuts and Pop-Up card designs to family, friends and neighbors. It's great for an ego and perhaps cheers another persons day.

I just mailed 2 of my entries to GAP for the upcoming Library Awareness Week in April.

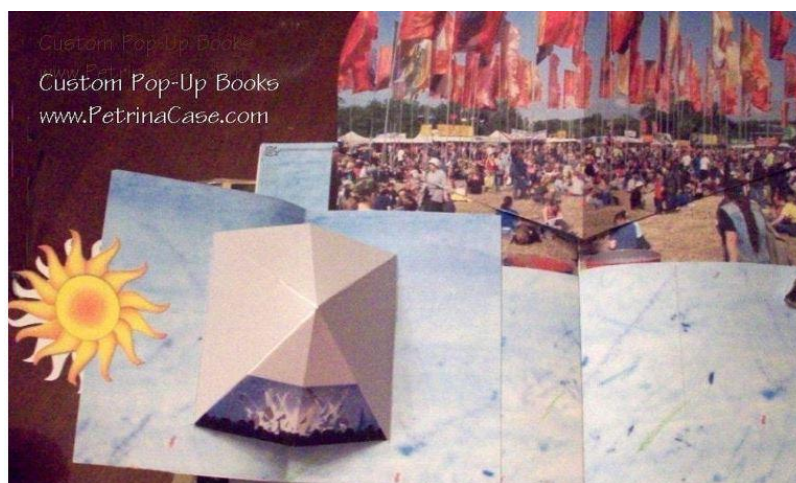
The only other projects are some e-mails back and forth trying to help people with a troublesome Pop-Up they have. I think one person is trying to learn conversational English.

I am still trying to have a normal routine eating lunch and dinner on schedule and I am bad at that as I get too absorbed in my art projects. I am doing better at going to bed on schedule 11:30pm as I have always been a night owl.

My life has changed in major ways in that we no longer make Saturday visits to our son, Daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

Sunday outings with my daughter for breakfast, window shopping and general goofing around– have been suspended. The rest of the week is much the same as it was before. My day life has changed very little as I spend most days in the Studio.

The feeling of isolations broadens as I realize I cannot go anywhere I want at will. In 20 days I have been to a store once– to pick up much needed groceries and prescriptions. New orders have slowed and am not sure if it is the typical yearly lull or a result of this pandemic. I read, write and update my social medias with photos of my newest designs and projects. Other things I am working on now: I make a mess when water coloring





(Petrina Case, continued from page 19.)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PetrinaCasePopUpStudio>

Twitter as Paper Pop-

Ups: <https://twitter.com/PaperPopUps>

Blog

Wordpress: <https://paperpops.wordpress.com>

Blog

Blogger: <https://petrinacasestudio.blogspot.com>

My website: www.PetrinaCase.com

ETSY Store: www.PetrinaCaseStudio.ETSY.com

Up for a challenge?

Papercut an image something you can see from your window. Some of you may be lucky and have beautiful views. Some of you may have the even bigger challenge of transforming something mundane into a work of art. When you're done, email it to rosaleff@gmail.com or post it on Instagram with the tag #GAPstaysin

David Hoffman

I hope this finds you safe and well! I am finally settling down. I feel like I have been in high gear, spinning in one place. I have been overwhelmed by the amount of work it's taking to figure out how to teach my K - 6th graders art from home, between new apps, online meeting, figuring out what to teach, what do the students have at home, helping to hand out supplies and food to the students families, while worrying if I'll still have a job when it all blows over. I live alone in a very small house, which during normal times and schedule isn't so bad. Now, it's getting a bit... alone. However! This weekend, I took a step back and have created a few new pieces, which was REFRESHING. I'm determined to set a daily time for creating. It's needed I feel to keep equilibrium in this odd time. Sorry this a day late. I thought today was Friday...

(On a happy note, a friend of mine's husband who has had cancer 5 times now, posted today he was in remission using the papercut I made for them when he announced he had cancer! YAY!)

Thanks!

Dave

Instagram @djustdave

Rosa Leff

When I'm not teaching kindergarten live online I'm making small works in my studio. I've begun "quarantine pricing" small pieces since budgets and incomes are shrinking.

Follow me on Instagram

@rosaleff or visit

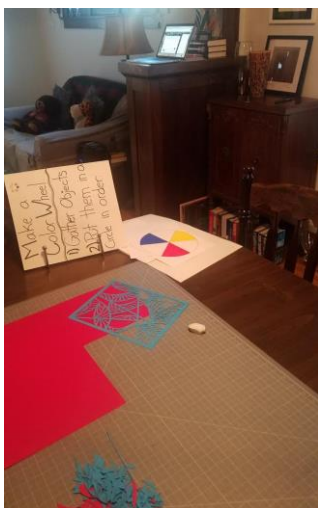
<https://www.rosaleff.com>



Deadline Extended!

ExLibris submissions will be received until June 1, and the project dates/ plan will be adapted as circumstances allow. Please use the original entry guidelines to send your entry fee of \$20 with actual one or two entries to: GAP, attn. Rebecca Raupach, P.O. Box 384, Somerset, PA 15501. All designs will be scanned, then juried by "People's Choice", before printing, packaging, and mailing jury selected book-plates to members. The exhibit will be installed in the glass case at the GAP National Office, Laurel Arts, Somerset, PA. The scanned images will be available for GAP Website, Facebook, and FirstCut info. Individuals will eventually also receive an emailed scan of their personal entries.

Stay safe & keep in touch!



Other news & events!

Homebound Cut-Paper Activity

By Kathy Trexel Reed

Recent days can seem long, especially if children are looking for something new as fun. A simple glue stick, an inside piece of cereal cardboard box, scissors, and various papers will help to get their interest.

Find printed paper: wrapping paper, copies of doodles or children's drawings, magazine, map, or newspaper pages. Cut these into a variety of shapes. Pictures of people or animals from magazines will also add imaginative touches. Use the glue stick all over the back of the cut papers and stick them to the cardboard. Cover the cardboard and smooth out all the wrinkles. Cut off the paper edges that stick out past the cardboard. (It doesn't need to be a rectangle.)

This is already a "collage" of shapes, textures, images, and ideas. But don't stop yet... on the back of the board, draw lines in different directions so they cross each other and make uneven shapes. Cut along the lines to make puzzle pieces. Slide them around, mix them up, and see if you can put them back together again!

10th Annual March 150 Special Exhibition and Art Sale

Featuring work by Janelle Washington

(This exhibit is now online.)

<http://torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery/>

As It Should Be

Featuring work by Rosa Leff

(This exhibit is now online.)

<http://www.sarahbmccann.com/as-it-should-be.php>

Check out this Texas Highways Magazine article about GAP member Kathleen Trenchard!

"San Antonio Artist Kathleen Trenchard Creates Memorable Papel Picado Art"

<https://texashighways.com/culture/art-music/san-antonio-artist-kathleen-trenchard-memorable-papel-picado-art/>

Drawing Happy Hour with Melanie Kehoss

Wednesdays, April 8 – April 29, 5:30-7pm

<https://arlingtonartscenter.org/classes/2020/03/drawing-happy-hour-with-melanie-kehoss/>