



Communication From Members Of The Guild Of American Papercutters

Design by Paul D. Beal

December 2020

Check In With Mindy

Those who know me in the papercutting world might have figured out that I teach more than I get to cut original work. Sometimes this is seasonal but recently I have had to chance to teach a lot on Zoom. As you can see from the picture I am sharing, these are sample cards for an annual holiday card class. (Right) Because I had a few returning students, I decided to change up the templates. I first saw this technique in the window of a store owned by Archie Granot when I was studying Hebrew calligraphy in Israel in 2000. At the time, he was not teaching his technique. Luckily that changed and Kim Phillips taught a class for the GAP Zoom Class series recently. It is amazing how quickly we can apply what we learn.

On December 6, Cindy Stinson-Chenel taught us to make holiday orbs. I had seen these before so I got a head start to learn the technique and immediately brought to a Zentangle class I was teaching. I can't wait to do one in papercut.

Recently a staff member from the Las Cruces Museum in New Mexico reached out to GAP to tell us about their current exhibit and to find local members who might be interested in seeing it. That communication lead to a wonderful collaboration. They have hired one of our members, Susan Leviton, to do a Zoom class on the history of papercutting. They will also be hiring someone to teach a class on Islamic influenced papercutting. This collaboration inspired me to create a resource file of members who teach and can offer workshops. In the near future look for a link where you can share this information about yourself. I am currently in conversation with Jeri, our tech genius, to set this up. It will be exciting to have such a community resource.



Check In With Mindy (Continued)

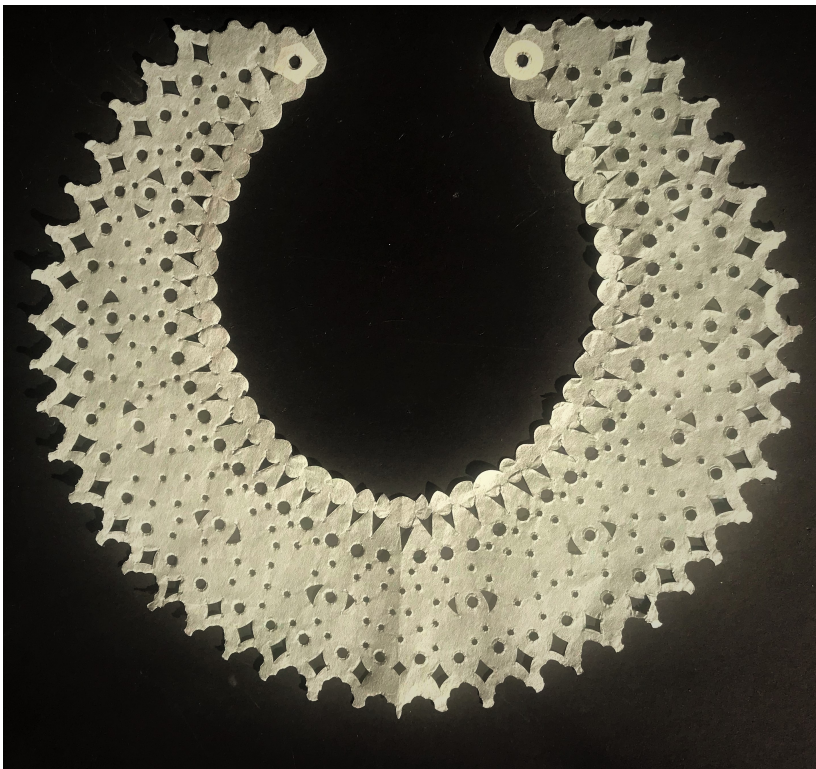
As we close out on 2020, I am reminded of the first papercut I ever did. I was attending Klezkamp which was a Yiddish folk camp that took place in the Catskills in New York. Klezkamp was filled with klezmer musicians who played all day and all night. I was the audience but I also took non-musician workshops such as Yiddish women writers and Intro to Yiddish language. There was also a workshop on papercutting. So in December 1995 I made my first papercut. (Top Right) It is of a menorah. The menorah is described in the Bible as the seven-lamp (six branches) ancient Hebrew lampstand made of pure gold and used in the portable sanctuary set up by [Moses](#) in the wilderness and later in the [Temple in Jerusalem](#). Fresh [olive oil](#) was burned daily to light its lamps. The menorah has been a symbol of [Judaism](#) since ancient times. The Hanukkah menorah has eight branches as the holiday is celebrated for eight days. There is a ninth branch, usually a different height and that light is used to light the other candles.

May the light we bring in through Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, serve to bring better days as we enter 2021. Looking forward to continued growth for GAP, more opportunities to make art together and forging new paths for GAP together.



From Kathleen Trenchard

Here is my Ruth B. Ginsberg necklace tribute and my 2020 calavera (day of the dead satire/tribute). Happy 2021, fellow GAP artists!



From Linda Emmerson

"Papercutters Times Three" will be on display at the Octagon Center for the Arts, Ames, IA from Jan. 6 to Feb. 9th. We three (the only papercutters we know of in Central Iowa) are Beth Wunder, Lucky Kim and Linda Emmerson.

From Lucrezia Bieler

Two of my papercuttings are in "cut up/cut out". The show is traveling since 2017, it started at the Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek, CA.

Here is a link to a video showing "cut up/cut out" at the Massillon Museum:

<https://massillonmuseum.org/cutupcutout>

Image Right: "Lazy Sunday Afternoon", Below: "Barefoot In The Wild Garden" By Lucrezia Bieler



From Joyce Yarbrough

Solo Exhibit

Kansas City's Discovery Nature Center will feature "Nature Inspired", artwork by Joyce Yarbrough, well-known for "drawing with her scissors."

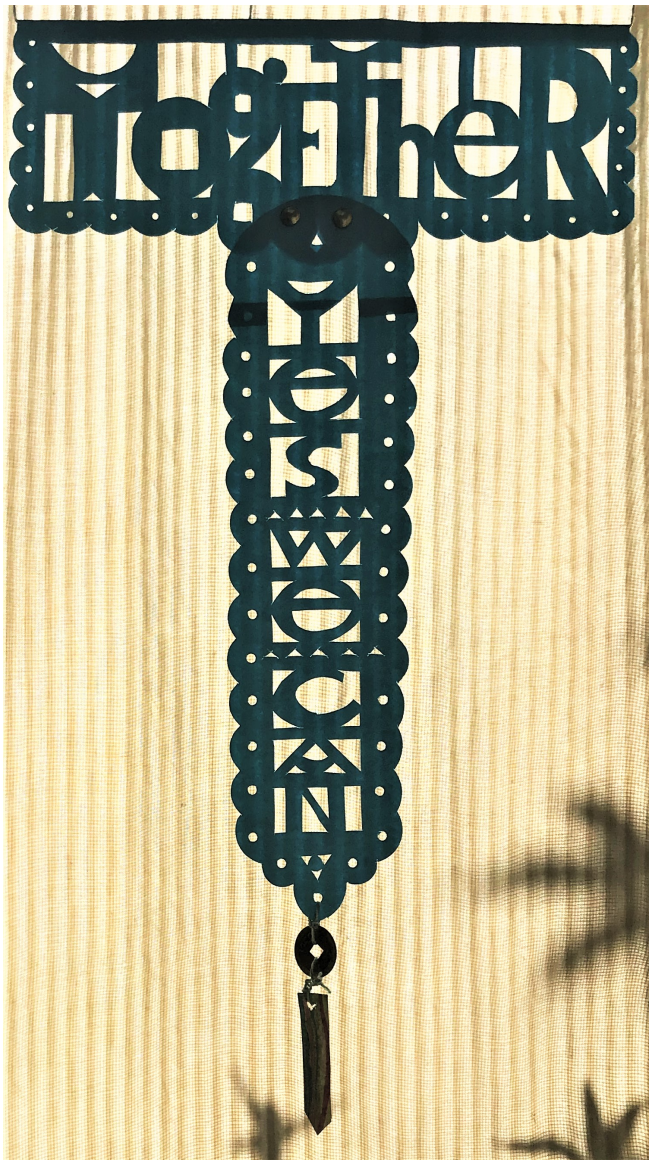
A former artist at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, she utilizes a variety of mediums including pastel, watercolor and scissors-cut paper.

"I love the curves and colors of nature, and strive to select which medium best captures each subject's life energy... be it birds, butterflies, plants or landscapes."

Joyce's artistic talents have been displayed in museums, galleries, fine art shows, and homes around the world.

(Images: "Macaw Feather," "Monarch Butterfly," "Pileated Woodpecker," "Giant Blue Swallowtail.")





Make a "TOGETHER" Mobile

DESIGN BY: ©, Kathleen Trenchard 2020. <http://www.cut-it-out.org/index.html>

FUN & EASY: Color, Cut, Punch, Assemble, Attach, Embellish, Hang or Send

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut along the center to divide the "Together" and the "Yes We Can."
2. Fold over the top edge of "Together" and attach to string or ribbon for hanging. Or, just hang from center top. The same can be done with "Yes we can."

Optional:

1. Recycle your materials: Use thread, plastic ties or brass paper fasteners to make a large "T."
2. Align and attach the eye holes at the bottom of "Together" with the eye holes at the top of "Yes we can."
3. Add tiny bells, buttons, coin, beads, or keys, and snippets of paper to the bottom hole of "Yes we can" for a little gravity and chime.
4. Own it: Personalize it! Make your own version and share it with friends and family.

STAY WELL!

(Images on Left by Kathleen Trenchard)



From Gloria Avner



My first original Papercut design. Tree of Life, Florida Keys Style :-)) I haven't glued it down yet. Thinking I may want a painted background. Open to suggestions. *(Image above, right)*

From Megg Sorensen

I rang in 2020 in my former hometown of Chicago, but after returning to Louisiana a few days later, I've hardly left the house. This, of course, is a familiar story for nearly everyone as the globe faces the coronavirus pandemic. Thankfully, those of us with internet access can explore the world and connect with friends old and new while staying physically distant.

When I discovered the website for the [Museum For Paperkunst](#) (Museum of Paper Art) in Denmark, I was filled with wanderlust and fascination. The museum, which opened in March of 2018, features paper art of all kinds. The permanent exhibition of the museum is the fanciful work of [Bit Vejle](#), papercutter and founder of the Museum for Paperkunst.

"Have you ever heard about another museum that only focuses on paper art?" Bit asked me when we sat down to chat via Zoom on a chilly November day. I told her I couldn't think of one. Bit spent the last 15 years traveling around to display her stunningly large and beautiful papercut designs, and she quickly noticed the profound interest in her work.

"Everybody had seen so many oil paintings and other types of exhibitions, but they had never seen a pure papercut exhibition." When she realized the amount of people that were attracted to a papercutting exhibit, she was inspired to found a museum to showcase her work and the work of paper artists around the world.

The museum features not only papercuttings, but an array of paper-based art and design. A current exhibition, called "[Design by Paper](#)," shows off ways in which paper can be used to design items for everyday use. The exhibit includes "chairs, bottles, garments – a lot of surprising things," Bit explained. Paper accounts for at least 15% of all garbage that is collected, and in Denmark alone, 430,000 tons of paper waste is created each year. If properly recycled, this paper could be reused seven times. The "Design by Paper" exhibition provides real-world examples, old and new, of recycling this resource. Carlsberg Brewery Group and Coca-Cola are currently partnering with Danish startup Paboco to create a [paper-based bottle](#), which the corporations hope to roll out in upcoming years. As "Design by Paper" shows, paper can play an important part in a sustainable future.



I asked how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the museum. Despite having to close down twice in 2020 due to Covid restrictions, but for the rest of the time, the museum has been a destination for those in Denmark. "We were very much afraid when corona started," Bit told me, "but it has been fantastic!" With travel restrictions in place, Danes had to stay in Denmark. The museum is situated near the North Sea, which she described as "extremely beautiful and spacious." Many Danes vacationed in the area, since they couldn't leave the country, and ended up exploring the museum during their time there. The museum even set up appointments for those with health risks to safely enjoy the museum alone to avoid crowds.

Looking forward, in February of 2021 the Museum will be hosting an exhibition featuring 15 paper theaters, which will include live performances. And no matter when you visit the Museum for Paperkunst, you can experience the breathtaking work of Bit Vejle.

Bit began papercutting as a child, participating in the Danish Easter papercutting tradition of [Gækkebreve](#). "That's how I got started, and then I never stopped." For years and years, Bit continued creating papercuts, but kept it a secret. She would put her large papercuttings under her rugs to keep them safe. About 15 years ago, she was working in television in Norway, and a colleague from work showed up to her house unannounced. She had been papercutting and hadn't cleaned up yet, so he asked her what she was doing. She showed him her work and "he got so fascinated that he grabbed his telephone and called the Museum for Decorative Arts and said 'You have to come and see what Bit has under her carpets!'" A year later, she was showing her work at the museum, and the rest is history.

Bit Vejle refers to her work as psaligraphy, the art of storytelling through paper. With scissors, she creates entire worlds in paper. She follows in the fairytelling traditions of Danish writer and artist Hans Christian Andersen ([and even got to work with Andersen's own scissors](#), which had not been used since his death). Bit is a fantastic storyteller in her own right, and brings her own experience and style to each piece she cuts.

For us stateside, there will be chances to see Bit's work in 2021. Her papercuttings will be displayed at the [American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis](#) from February 5 – July 11, and in Seattle at the [National Nordic Museum](#) from October 22, 2021 – January 31, 2022. She is also very eager to know if any of our readers know of museums that would be interested in hosting her exhibition, which includes very



large works, a papercutting workshop, and many gift shop items. You can reach out to her at bit@papercutart.no with suggestions!

If you find yourself in Seattle or Minneapolis next year, I highly recommend checking out Bit Vejle's exhibition. Her work is sure to amaze any viewer, but especially us papercutters who can fully appreciate the time and effort she puts into every piece. I'm so grateful that Bit was able to take the time to speak to me about the museum and her work (plus, we bonded on our love of cutting with scissors). It's hard to say what 2021 will bring, but I know whenever I can travel to Europe, the Museum for Paperkunst will be high on my list of destinations! Like me, you can explore it vicariously through their website:

www.museumforpaperkunst.dk/en/home

From Rosa Leff



Virtual Workshop: Papercut Cityscapes

Hosted by Creative Alliance

Feb 20th: \$30 +\$3 registration fee

<https://creativealliance.org/events/2020/papercut-cityscapes>

From Karen Gettel-Bell

Biographical Information:

As a native Ohio farm girl, I spent much of my time creating my own entertainment. My passions, from the time I was four were playing my violin, playing outdoors, and playing with paper. My mother would always give me scissors and paper to cut and paste, create some often times obscure pictures, or just to cut. I remember being fascinated by the shapes that one could form by cutting paper strips, tossing them into the air, and watching them land in strange patterns. Perhaps my interest was only natural since I am partly of Pennsylvania Dutch descent.

Eventually, music became my career but it was through music and teaching that I became reconnected with my love of paper. The art teacher, in the school in which I was teaching, brought in some decorative paper, patterns, and scissors. This was the beginning of the many years in which I have been enjoying creating paper cuts, exploring the history, and the cultures of other countries in which Scherenschnite is a tradition.

I find that many of the elements of music, such as dynamics, line, harmony, texture, and melody, can be expressed with paper through design, texture of the paper, colors, etc. Many nights you will find me working on a new cutting after a symphony rehearsal or at the end of a day of teaching.

I am a member of the Charlotte County Arts and Humanities organization, the Art in Public Places program, exhibitor in the Arts and Humanities Gallery, member of the Visual Arts Center, all of Florida. I have been recognized as the Artist of the Month of Charlotte County. GAP has chosen several of my cuttings for publication on our calendar. My work is also exhibited in various galleries in Vermont. My husband and I have coauthored a book : FUSION: ART POETRY THOUGHT. It is a collaboration of poetry and paper cuttings.

These cards are available for purchase from me directly at cuttingsbythbrook@gmail.com
Cards are available in both greeting and note card sizes.

\$3.95 – Greeting Card

\$3.50 – Note Card



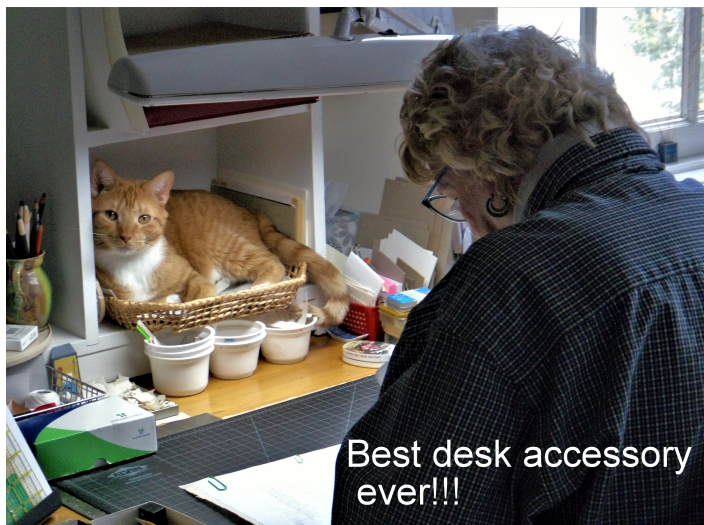
From Barbara Buckingham



I have been a member of CoArt Gallery in Staunton, VA for close to 20 years. I always proudly attach my GAP sticker on the back of my work.

<http://coartgallery.com/index.html>

From Laura Martin



Just in case you really can use a photo of a pandemic papercutting, I'm sending one here. And this is its story.

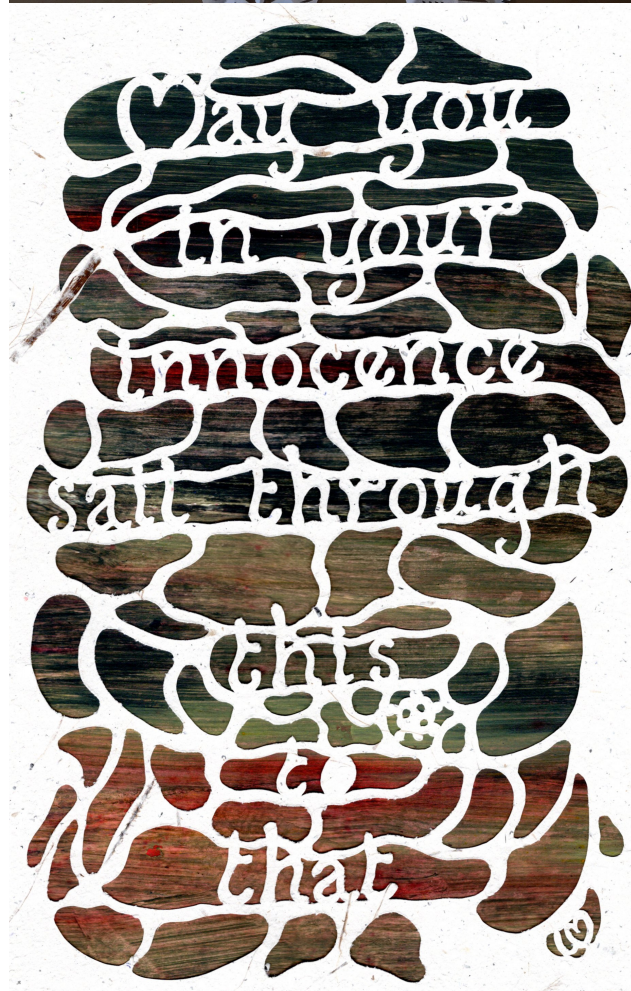
A friend sent me this fragment from a Lucille Clifton poem back at the beginning of the pandemic, and it has been a comfort to me through all these months. I have cut three versions of it in handmade paper and mounted them against paste paper I made about twenty years ago. (Never throw anything away!!)

I'm also sending a photo of my work space and my studio monitor. (Photo by W. Paul Meyer.)

Best wishes for the season -- and stay safe!!

From Carolyn Guest

I've been cutting snowflakes and inventorying what Cuttings I have in stock. I have had a few cuttings in my two galleries sell and requests for a couple recently. Buy local and from the artist is a pleasant surprise. Best wishes to all.



From Sue Throckmorton

These are some photos of a project I created during the lockdown for want of something to do. I started with cutting tiny animal pairs out of various colored pieces of origami paper, starting with my favorite 2 elephants. Each day I would cut out a pair or more of animals from almost all the continents which included mammals, both domestic and wild, reptiles and amphibians, birds, butterflies, and even 2 spiders. In the beginning I tried to carefully make the animals proportionate to each other in size, but, as you can see, sometimes I exercised "artistic license." I also took note of the differences between female and males, such as the fact that the horns on male giraffes are bare whereas those on the female are covered with hair.

Then the idea grew as I created an ark (not Noah's) and a vaulted walkway of strips of brown wrapping paper which I cut out, painted with watercolors, and pieced back together again. I then created different areas on a large piece of light blue cardboard, measuring 100 cm X 70 cm (about 39.37" X 27.56") which included various grassy fields, a background ocean with a sandy beach and a sky with white clouds and gray clouds with streaks of lightning signaling an approaching storm, a pond, a bare, a fenced in area for mythical monsters and beasts forbidden to enter the ark and a wide path winding through the area up to the walkway. I added some trees, rocks, flowers, jugs of water, bales of hay, and a container of carrots, plus a group of diverse people who were in charge of loading the animals and supplies onto the ark. I made sure they were carefully observing antiviral precautions such as distancing themselves and wearing protective masks!

In the end I created 117 pairs of animals (234 in total), 6 forbidden beasts, and 7 people. I call it "The Escape: 2020." It was great fun to do, but the big question now is: WHAT TO DO WITH IT? I hope at least you will all be able to enjoy it via iPhone pictures.





From Fan Pu



From Rosa Leff

Under \$500 Sale at Maryland Art Place (Online only)

Main Sales Event (free): Tuesday, December 15, 10am through Saturday, December 19 (closes 10pm sharp)

<https://e.givesmart.com/events/jam/i/ All/csAk/?search=>



From Mindy Shapiro

Geometric Aljamía: a Cultural Transliteration is a cross-cultural collaboration that addresses how connections between the Middle East and the West during the Golden Age of the Islamic Civilization continue to be relevant and vibrant in the 21st century.

Since ancient times, geometric perfection has been thought to convey sacred and universal truths by reflecting the fractal interconnections of the natural world. In the Islamic world, geometric ornamentation may have reached a pinnacle where it has been assimilated into all aspects of everyday life. One finds these same similarities across different cultures and embedded in many diverse ethnic patterns. The artists of ***Geometric Aljamía*** examine an extended cross-cultural integration of geometric patterning and how this commonality creates a connection.

This exhibition includes artists, designers, performers, and writers from Afghanistan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Canada, and the United States. Organized by Wylie Contemporary, Inc, Virginia. *(This exhibit is traveling so be sure to check the website to find out when it's coming your way!)*

<http://www.travelingmuseumexhibitions.com/geometric-aljamiacuttea.html>



From Rosa Leff

Urban Landscapes

Beacon Gallery, Boston

January 1, 2021 - February 14, 2021

<https://beaongallery.com/event-works.php?eventId=13727&event=Urban+Landscapes>

Beacon Gallery is pleased to announce its upcoming exhibition entitled "Urban Landscapes", opening January 1st and running through February 14th, 2021. This socially distanced exhibition will be available by appointment only due to CDC regulations as well requiring all visitors wear face mask in order enter into the gallery.

"Urban Landscapes" focuses on how four artists translate the urban landscape into their own unique vision.

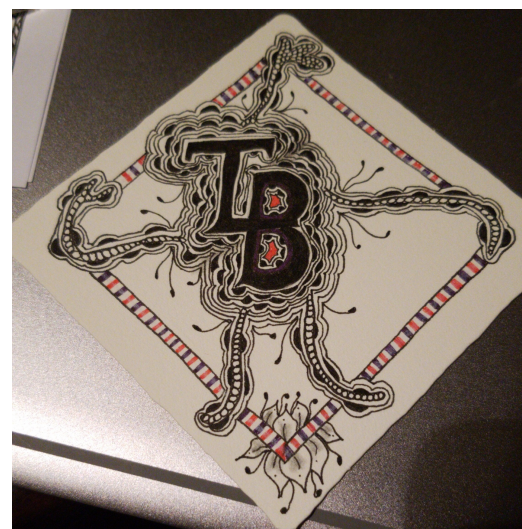
Featuring works by Rosa Leff, Michael McLaughlin, Sam Belisle and Howard Fineman, Urban Landscapes will open the eyes of its viewers as it offers a different perspective on everyday scenes.

Rosa Leff's cut paper scenes of city life offer a delicate juxtaposition to her chosen subject matter. Michael McLaughlin applies photorealism in unexpected ways to streets, parking lots and New England architecture, but encloses his traditional subject matter with mixed media that requires a reconsideration of the entire scene.

Elegant photographs by Howard Fineman demonstrate the beauty and diversity of the modern landscape, wrought of human hand. Sam Belisle's oil paintings

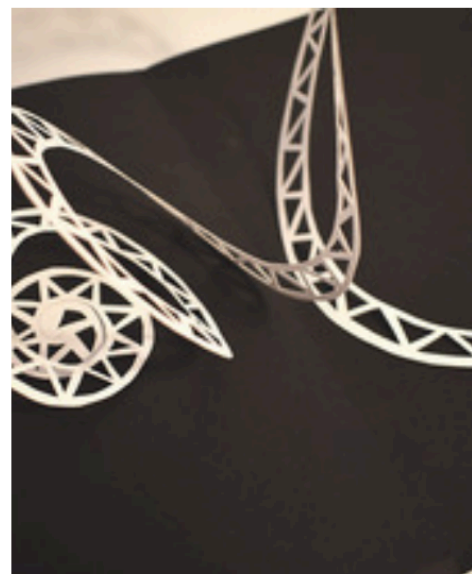
respond to the powerful emotional landscapes created by the Black Lives Matter movement. These four artists and their diverse perspectives allow visitors to explore new perspectives in the modern American landscape of the 21st century. (Stay tuned for details on Virtual Artist Talks! <https://www.rosaleff.com/>)

Finished Projects from introduction to Zentangle with Mindy Shapiro



First two designs by Pasha Leichter, Third design by Tracy Lee Belford.

Pop Up Book Techniques with Alicia Kelly



Experimenting with pop-up book structures and paper cutting processes, this workshop interlaces the two paper-based traditions into complementary forms. Students will learn how to create basic pop-up structures, simple kirigami, and paper folding techniques. Zoom link emailed before workshop. *All payments for classes are non-refundable.*

Date: Sunday, January 10, 2021

Time: 2-4pm Eastern Standard Time; 11am-1pm Pacific; 7-9pm UK; 8-10pm Europe. *Sign up now!*

Visit <https://papercutters.org/> to register!

Papercutters Without Borders



Did You Know?

Our Interactive "Papercutters Without Borders" map features contemporary papercutters, from across the globe, working both in traditional styles and in new ways. You can browse the list or click on the map markers to go to artists' pages. If you would like to share your own papercutting story here, in any language, or can suggest another papercut artist to include, please [let us know!](#)