

First Cut

Communication From Members Of The Guild Of American Papercutters
March 2020

Check In With Mindy

Some of you might be familiar with the wonderful book by Julia Cameron, [The Artist's Way](#). If you are not familiar with the book, I encourage you to take it out of the library or buy a copy. It is hard to believe it is 28 years old! One of the activities from the book is to go on a weekly artist date. This could be anything from buying cheap art supplies to play around with to going to a museum exhibit. The goal is to get your creativity flowing.

I recently had a terrific artist date. A dear friend came to Philadelphia from Takoma Park, MD and we went to the Barnes Foundation to see *30 Americans*. This exhibit presents works by 30 important and influential contemporary African American artists. When we walked into the gallery we were greeted by Kara Walker's *Camptown Ladies* (1998). I actually saw this last year in DC at another exhibit on silhouettes so it was a joy to encounter it again although the story of how African American's were treated during the antebellum era is so disturbing, which of course is the point of the story Walker is telling.

I could go on about the entire exhibit, which was amazing, but I only wanted to focus on papercutting. You can find more information about it online as it continues to travel around the country for a few more years.



After we left the Barnes, we headed to the Free Library of Philadelphia used bookstore. And what greeted us? A very fun altered book turkey on display. It was super fun to look at and it reminded me of the altered books currently traveling from GAP member to GAP member. We plan to raffle these books at our conference in late June. I had the honor of working on one of the books in December and cannot wait to see what it looks after all the artists get to work on it.

For those of us who live in cold climates where it is also dark early, it can get depressing. I recommend you take yourself on an artist date. It gets you out of the house and can serve fuel your creativity. Feel free to let me know what you create.

Have a great month.

-Mindy

How The Harris Award Got Its Start

Prior to the 2000 Collection (now known as The GAP Conference) at the YMCA of the Rockies in Colorado, someone (do not remember who) sent an email to all GAP members. We were asked to cut a small 3"x3" cutting, representing our style. These cuttings were mounted in a beautiful album, and at the Collection, given to charter members Sukey and Dick Harris in appreciation of all they did to create the Guild.

This "thank you award" came to be known as the "Harris Award". The subsequent awards have been handmade cuttings by those who have volunteered to create them. The cutting is generally given out at a Collection, after a nomination is recommended by a member.

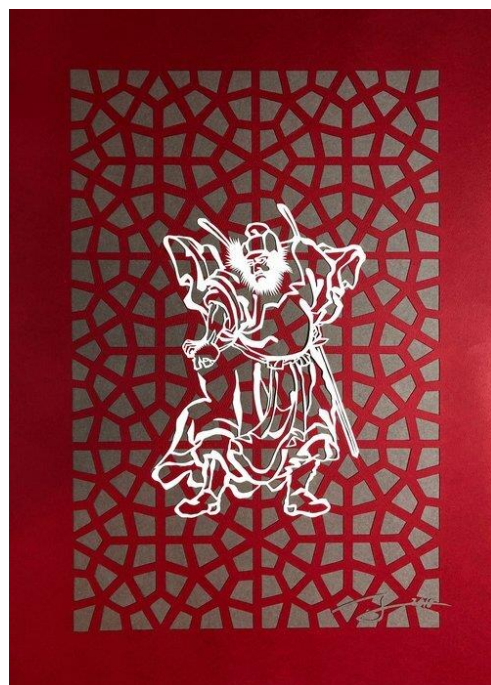
Some of the prior award recipients have been: Paul Beal, Pat Stuntz, Patty Kile, Sandy Gilpin, Sharon Schaich, Nancy Cook, Bernie DuPlessis, Marcia Egan, Beatrice Coron, Lynn Askew, Neil Haring, and Kay Buchanan. (I hope I have not left anyone out.) This is really a Who's Who of some of the Founding GAP members as well other members who have contributed so much of their time and talent to GAP.

The original album is now at the GAP Museum. Come see it during our June/ July Conference!

Member Events:

From Tamar Shadur: I am scheduled to conduct three papercut workshops in March and April in my town and beyond. The places are Cancer Connection in Northampton, the Senior Center, Northampton, and at the Deerfield Valley Arts

Association gallery (DVAA) in Northfield, MA. The duration of a typical workshop is 2.5-3 hours. The small papercuts in the photo are made by participants in a past workshop.



From Randall Williams:

What & When:

Bluebird Sky Yoga Wall Gallery
February – April

Artists Reception on March 20 at 7:30pm (includes discussion & three wine pairings; \$8 for studio members / \$12 for nonmembers)

Where:

Bluebird Sky Yoga
3101 12th St NE, Washington DC 20017
<http://www.bluebirdskyyoga.com/local-art>

Who:

I am a Takoma Park, Maryland-based artist whose art consists of hand-cut paper combined with acrylic paints and inks to create layered, expressive images. Inspiration found in nature, literature, and the arts.

From Rosa Leff:

Group Exhibition: "As It Should Be"

When: March 26th- April 23rd

Opening Reception:

March 26th, 4-8pm

Where: Gallery CA, Baltimore



More Member Events:



From Alice Masek:

Here in Castro Valley, CA we have an art organization around the Adobe Art Center, and here on May 9th I have been invited to do a "Demo Day" on my Large scale group papercuttings for fellow artists and members of the community. I will have 2 tables set up so people can work on papercuttings as I speak, and will be doing a slide show of my works with stories about how they came about and the images shown. I will include an element of "do it yourself" for those interested in creating their own Large Scale Papercutting designs. The event will run from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. I do not know whether there is any charge for those attending, and will be able to give more information closer to the event. I'll try to give you more for the April First Cut!

GAP friends interested in more information can contact me at my e-mail: alicehelenpapercut@gmail.com.

From Judith Hankin: I have 2 papercuts on display in the Member's Gallery at: Maude Kerns Art Center, 1910 E 15th Ave, Eugene, Oregon. The work will be on exhibit through March 28th.

A long time papercut artist, printmaker and potter, she has more recently been experimenting with sand blasted glass. Judith is passionate about the creative process and draws her inspiration from the natural world. Organic shapes and flowing lines give all her work, no matter the medium, her signature look. Her designs can be found on public art pieces including large scale metal window screens, carved sanctuary doors, and sandblasted windows. They have also been used for book illustrations, conference logos, greeting cards and fine art commissions. She lives, works and gardens in Eugene, Oregon.

From Palunisa Volha: "We call spring"

When: 17.03 (18.00-20.20)

My master-class for children and their parents. We create spring decorations for Windows from colored paper.

Where:

BELARUS, Minsk, Chapaeva str. - 3

When: 29.03 (9.00 - 15.00)

Exhibition and master class. BIAŁOSTOCKI JARMARK WIELKANOCNY 2020

Where:

Polska. Białystok, Rynek Kościuszki 10

<http://muzeum.bialystok.pl/muzeum-podlaskie-w-bialymstoku/jarmarki/>





Early Bird Registration: CONFERENCE 2020!

With early bird registration (until MARCH 31, 2020), you will be entered in a raffle to win a papercut by a GAP board member!

This year's workshops will include creating layered papercuts, learning collage techniques, make your own paper, and much more! In addition, we will visit the GAP museum!!



In Profile: A Look at Silhouettes New York Historical Society

January 17 – April 5, 2020

<https://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/profile-look-silhouettes>

Review My Melanie Kehoss

Papercutting takes center stage at New York Historical Society's *In Profile: A Look at Silhouettes*. This show bears significant resemblance to the National Portrait Gallery's *Blackout: Silhouettes Then and Now* in 2018. Both focus on the silhouette, and though other media make appearances (such as ink, shadows, and graphic media), cut paper is the core of each exhibit.

In Profile displays a large collection of silhouette papercuts from the 19th century, including a wealth of Augustin Edouart's full-figure portraits. Several profile portraits feature églomisé, a technique in which white paper is hollow-cut and mounted over glass painted with black ink. This made me wonder whether any of our members practice this technique; please let us know and send a picture! Also among the historic papercuts, Martha Anne Honeywell's exquisitely cut "The Lord's Prayer" exhibited the amazing skill of this artist born without hands.



Martha Ann Honeywell, *The Lord's Prayer*, 1845

The most impressive contemporary work could not even fit within the main galleries of the exhibit; Beatrice Coron's "High Five: Stories from the Five Boroughs" spans the hallway outside the main galleries. She tells the story of each borough of New York City in roughly 7-foot-long panels of cut Tyvek. While not a New Yorker myself, I enjoyed walking the length of each busy landscape, trying to identify landmarks and characters. This site-specific installation alone is worth a visit to the museum.

In Profile: A Look at Silhouettes New York Historical Society

...Continued

Several of the historic papercuts on display had been created using the physiognotrace, an apparatus that enabled anyone to draw a faithful silhouette, regardless of drawing ability. (The show left me with only a dim understanding of how this contraption worked, so I found this video demonstrating its use:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjHltKMbDfE>.)

A visit to *In Profile* concludes with an invitation to sit behind a silhouette screen, which, when photographed by a companion from the front, serves as a modern-day version of the physiognotrace. You can see more visitor pictures of their shadow portraits, as well as other work in the show, at #profileslive.



Kaveh's profile (interactive exhibit)



*Unknown artist, Mrs. Sarah M Gallop.
Elizabeth Laurance by Tomas P Jones.
John MacDougall Laurance by Isaac Todd.
Hollowcut paper and eglomise
ca. 1800-1820*

Image: Béatrice Coron "High Five: Stories from the Five Boroughs, 2019"



We are deeply saddened to hear of the recent passing of two GAP members.

Obituary for Polly Winkler Mitchell

Polly Janice Winkler-Mitchell, age 81 of Carbondale, Illinois, passed away at home on Monday, November 18, 2019.

Born in Berwyn, Illinois, in 1938 to Clyde V. Winkler and Elma Spiller Winkler, Polly attended the University School and Southern Illinois Normal University, making life-long friends along the way. She opened her first antiques shop when she was sixteen. Polly married Marion W. Mitchell in 1958, and they had two daughters.

Polly and Marion were pioneers of the heritage crafts movement, and spent much of their sixty-one year marriage reenacting, teaching, and preserving eighteenth century lifeways and arts. Polly's *scherenschnitte* (elaborate paper cutting) and Marion's bentwood boxes are nationally known for their beauty, and fidelity to antique patterns and construction techniques.

For many years Polly and Marion traveled the world on cruises, with Polly teaching *scherenschnitte*, and Marion giving destination lectures. After they tired of working, they kept traveling, effectively squandering whatever fortune the family may have had—they did this with their daughters' encouragement, of course. They went from China to Patagonia—but their favorite place, to which they returned again and again, was Alaska.

Polly will be sorely missed by all who knew her or admired her art. She is survived by her devoted husband, Marion, daughters, Susan Mitchell Sommers and Sarah Gribbins, their husbands, Dallas Sommers and Neil Gribbins, grandchildren, Alexander and Sophia Sommers, and more friends than you could shake a stick at.

Katharina Gertrud Benneck (Pictured) age 91, peacefully died at her home at 5968 Encore Drive, Dallas, Texas on Sunday, May 26, 2019.

Born on February 20, 1928 in Gronau / Westphalia, Germany; she lived in Gronau, Muenster, Bielefeld, Cologne, and Munich, Germany as well as living in Sweden; Paris, France; and Glastonbury, Connecticut in the United States before retiring in Dallas, Texas. She was a lifelong artist active in many different



media. She studied art in Muenster and in Munich attended master classes for Bavarian folk art. There, she produced beautifully painted wooden furniture and other artifacts.

After moving to New England, she became renowned throughout the area for her workshops in making gingerbread houses, plant topiaries and sugar Easter eggs. She personally painted about 10,000 hand blown glass ornaments which were sold at Christmas and other high end stores.

Her biggest love artistically though was the art of "Scherenschnitt," the traditional German art of using scissors to cut designs full of meaningful symbols out of a single piece of paper. She was invited to display her work at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., at Rutgers University, an exhibition on paper crafts in China, and was featured in a museum in Germany.

She has sailed the oceans from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean and up and down the East coast of the United States which earned her the title of the "admiral" by her captain.

Survivors include her husband, Conbert Benneck, of Dallas, her daughter and son-in-law, Hildegard and Byrd Jessup, of 6288 Willowgate, Dallas, and her son and daughter-in-law, Gerhard and Martine Benneck, of Hochstr. 13, Langenfeld, Germany, along with five grandchildren: Zachary and Alex Jessup and Lucy, Oliver and Sally Benneck.

Help!

Did you know that an index now exists of First Cut Articles through 1998! We are looking for someone to continue the project.

If you are interested in updating and maintain this index, which we would like to make available on our website, please contact **Martha Kreisel** (librfmzk@yahoo.com) for details.

Oops! (Corrections)

A note from Sharon Schaich:

I just heard from Steve Woodbury that he was the first newsletter editor for GAP. My mistake!

I am so happy that you included all the info about Sukey's passing and the lovely photo of her in her garden. Was also fascinated to read Trudy's listing of those early meetings and travels to so many museums and private collections. Maybe it will inspire some far-flung trips to other private collections. Hope to meet you in Pittsburgh!

-Sharon Schaich, Lititz PA

From Rosa Leff:

I apologize for duplicating Mindy Shapiro's "Check In" in the December and January/ February Issue of First Cut. Thank you to those who brought this mistake to my attention!