

## Checking In With Jenn

BY JENN ROSS

Hey there, friends! Happy New Year! This past month has been a rough one for me, as I've been up and down battling a cold, the flu, a respiratory virus, all followed-up by a sinus infection. Needless to say, the last of the handmade holiday gifts didn't get made and I've had to take a break from almost everything during one of my favorite times of the year.

All that said, the forced time away from the studio and any sort of socializing gave me some time to really delve into myself. I was forced to accept that being sick was out of my control, and if I pushed myself it was only going to get worse. This past few weeks were frustrating, but also allowed the space for my brain to shut off and take in some thoughtful creative exploration.

Pair that space with reading the book, *Trauma Stewardship* (If any of y'all are caregivers in literally any capacity, I highly recommend reading this book), which focuses a lot on intentionality in the work you do. Combined, I was able to ring the new year in with a sense of clarity and inspiration.

As an artist who is very process-oriented, I can often become overwhelmed by the desire to create and neglect setting a clear intention prior to setting up in the studio. This often results in feeling flustered because my art isn't as personal as I'd like it to be, or because I'm not pushing the boundaries of my practice. Heading into 2019, one of my goals is to slow down and ground myself before working, while also practicing radical self-acceptance. If I have a hankering just to create, to do it, without judgment, and not put pressure on myself to create a masterpiece. A week in and it's so far, so good. I'm crossing my fingers that I can...



*Flying carpet by Suzi Zimmerer*

....maintain this practice and build that muscle memory to reduce pressure, expectation, and judgment of myself and my work. If this resonates with you, I hope you all are able to do this for yourselves as well.

And if you find yourself struggling, that's what this community is for. Reach out, send an email, share on the facebook page. Our work as artists often comes from deep emotional spaces, and those aren't always easy. So this year, I encourage everyone to use this space to find creative support amongst the GAP community and make this a closer network of creative minds.

Did you make New Year's resolutions that include your artistic endeavors? Share those, as well! January first is a great opportunity to gain momentum. It is, however just another day in the year, so if major changes don't come immediately or easily, please remember to practice being kind to yourself.

Looking forward to another great year as part of GAP! Thanks, all!

Best,  
Jenn...



# First Cut

## Member Profile: SUZI ZIMMERER

Suzi Zimmerer of Louisville, Kentucky cuts paper, but also works in all kinds of media including relief printing, painting, drawings with all kinds of mediums, work in 3D, dioramas, or little finger puppets and dolls. And, of course, she says:

"I am sure there are many things I have yet to discover!" For her cuts, she prefers an X-Acto #11, but also tears paper, creates stencils, creates mono-prints, and employs Mod-podge, Elmer's, or gel mediums to create collages. In fact, Suzi seems to enjoy doing anything and everything that can be done to, on, or with paper! She loves "drawing and cutting paper, drawing ON cut paper, EVERY combination, really." While much of her collage work uses images from books and other printed materials, she has also been known to incorporate her own photographs.

Suzi began cutting paper as a child. Her mother would cut characters out of paper while telling Suzi stories. In art school, Suzi continued her mother's practice by cutting her own characters to amuse herself and the other students. It's no doubt that her mother's cutting contributed to her visual thinking. "My brain is always churning ideas for visuals, for story." For more than 40 years Suzi has kept notebooks of thoughts, sketches, quotes and snippets of all kinds. She can find inspiration anywhere including literature, nature, theatre, dance, archaeology, history, and science.

For 30 years Suzi has shown her work in museums, galleries, and libraries in Germany, England, and across the US but now finds herself "retreating" from showing stating that "...so much time is absorbed by techy detail and bookkeeping, which is not for me!" but also notes that she expects to have a "modest" web-presence soon. In addition to being a GAP member, Suzi is a member of Louisville Area Fiber and Textile Artists.





# First Cut

## Member Events

SEE WHAT GUILD MEMBERS HAVE  
COMING UP!

### Papercutting: Valentine's Day Edition

With Member Mindy Shapiro

Wednesday, February 13th, 7-9pm

Fleisher's JumpstART Workshops are single-session workshops that provide an introduction to our rich offerings and specialized studios. Led by our renowned teaching artists, the workshops are a welcoming and fun way to engage with art and share the experience with family and friends. You will walk away with a new understanding of a creative medium and an original artwork!

In this course, you will create a Valentine papercut cards.

Please bring a notepad and something to write with. All other supplies are included with enrollment.

<http://fleisher.org/take-a-class/class-listings/papercutting-valentines-day-edition/>



White Bear Unitarian  
Universalist Church

Work by Guild Members Vera Ming Wong and Andrea Martin

Sunday, February 3rd- March 3rd

Opening Reception: Sunday, February 10th, 2-5pm

White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church, Mahtomedi, Minnesota

#### About the Artists:

Andrea Martin is a Saint Paul artist and educator. She has been cutting paper for ten years and started working as a full time artist after retiring from teaching science. Andrea exhibits her work at art fairs and exhibitions regionally, nationally, and internationally. She belongs to several art organizations including MN Center for Book Arts, the Weaver's Guild of Minnesota, the Surface Design Association and is the past president of the Guild of American Papercutters.

[andreamartin.com](http://andreamartin.com)

Cut By Suzi Zimmerer



Vera Ming Wong is a natural science illustrator, artist, & educator. She is the director & founder of Project Art for Nature (MN & WI), a member of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators and What We Need Is Here Artists Group. Vera's artworks and illustrations focus on native plants, animals, and fungi, their ecosystems and habitats.

Her illustrations have appeared in various publications since 1988, including "Minnesota's Endangered Flora and Fauna"; "Northwoods Wildlife"; "Orchids of Minnesota" & "North Shore, Minnesota's Superior Coast." In decades of exploring cut paper, Vera has created

images in collage, multi-layered cut paper, cut paper in 2- and 3-dimensions, and cut paper mixed-media. She also translates cut paper pieces into metal sculptures or large-scale murals.

# First Cut

## Member Events

SEE WHAT GUILD MEMBERS HAVE COMING UP!



### Passageway Gallery

Work by Member Danielle Easdale on permanent display  
417 S 11th St, Omaha, NE 68102  
<http://www.passagewaygallery.com/>



### JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

An Agency of the Jewish Federation of Omaha

### Omaha Artists, Inc. All Mediums Juried Exhibition

Jewish Community Center Art Gallery  
333 South 132nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska  
February 2nd- 28th  
Opening Reception: February 10th, 2-4pm  
With Member Danielle Easdale



### The Grove Art Gallery: Gala Opening

713 Central Ave, Nebraska City  
February 2nd 6-8pm  
Member Danielle Easdale will be a on the permanent roster of this new gallery. Check out its debut!



### First Friday Art Walk

Open Studio featuring 10-15 minute workshops  
Tong's Art Studio, Gallery #109  
3701 Plains Blvd The Art in The Sunset  
Galleries, Amarillo, Texas 79102  
Gallery is #109

[www.tongs-paper-cutting.com](http://www.tongs-paper-cutting.com)

[www.tongs-art-studio.com](http://www.tongs-art-studio.com)

Every First Friday with Member Tong Steinle



"Gears" by Suzi Zimmerer



# First Cut



**Paper Infinity Cards Workshop** at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum on Thursday February 7th from 6-8pm  
Where: 249 Circle Way, Lake Jackson, TX



**Beginning Scherenschnitte Mini-Workshop:** Part of the Skills & Trades Exposition at Nash Farm  
January 24 & 25  
626 Ball Street, Grapevine, TX  
Lead by member Jodi Larson

*Open Calls:*  
HERE'S YOUR SHOT!

## Call for Local Artists

Washington

Exhibition dates: April 5 - 28, 2019 or October 4 - 27, 2019

Deadline to Apply: January 22nd

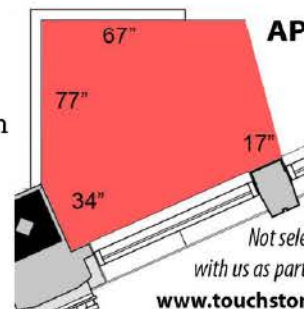
The Spotlight Art Series@Touchstone is an opportunity to have a solo exhibition at the Gallery. Successful applicants will enjoy a front window, 90 sq. ft. wall exhibition space, in our street level gallery located downtown Washington DC.

If you don't get selected for a solo exhibition, you still get to exhibit one small artwork in a 2019, as part of Local Guest Artists Group show at a date to be specified.

Website: <https://www.touchstonegallery.com/spotlight>

## Spotlight Art Series @ Touchstone CALL FOR ENTRIES

Juror: Molly Ruppert



### APPLY NOW

Deadline:

January 22

\$45 entry fee

90 sq. ft.

wall space

*Not selected - still exhibit with us as part of a group show!*

[www.touchstonegallery.com](http://www.touchstonegallery.com)



## Call for Art - 9th Annual "CityScapes" Online Art Competition

Organization: Light Space & Time Online Art Gallery

Submission Deadline: January 27, 2019

Event Dates: February 1, 2019 - February 28, 2019

Entry Fee: \$14 for 1 to 2 entries, \$24 for 3 to 5 entries, Early entry savings + art student discounts.

Award Info: Extensive worldwide publicity & promotion, 550+ press releases for winning artists.

Eligibility: International

<https://www.artworkarchive.com/call-for-entry/call-for-art-9th-annual-cityscapes-online-art-competition>