

First Cut

Communication from Members of the Guild of American Papercutters

March 2019

Issue XVII

A Bit of a Disclaimer: *I'm sure you've noticed already that this month's issue of First Cut looks different than usual. GAP's VP of Digital Communication, Rosa Leff, who so expertly crafts our newsletter each month had a run-in with life this month that needed to be prioritized. This community is here to support our members in any way we can, so I offered to put this together for March. Please forgive the lackings in this issue, but know that it's important that GAP remains consistent and reliable for its members. That said, apologies for the delay in getting this to your inboxes, but I hope you're able to attend one of the classes or events that GAP members are taking part in. Thanks for your ongoing support,*
Jenn

Check In with Jenn

By Jenn Ross

Hey friends! Here in Chicago March is coming in like a sloth and going out like a snail. These long winter evenings have made some great time to hole up in my studio and explore the wealth of art supplies buried in every nook and cranny. I've been incredibly inspired by some of these finds, amongst random other sources of creative enlightenment, as well. This originated, though, only after doing some early spring cleaning in my space. The time had come to reorganize, declutter, and vacuum up all the dust-bunny infested paper bits and loose threads that had taken over all horizontal surfaces. Tidying up really reminded me how sacred this space is to me...which made me wonder about the work stations of other gap members. Where do you work? Do you have a studio, a corner, a kitchen table that becomes your fortress of solitude after the kids (or grandkids or dogs) go to bed? The aesthetic of these areas can be equally informative about our artist identities as our work. Please share!!

Also, the GAP Board of Directors is meeting on April 15th. Do you have an idea to improve your GAP experience or something you'd like to bring to the boards' attention? Let us know! You can email me at [cutandpasteillustrations\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:cutandpasteillustrations(at)gmail(dot)com).

Thanks all!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mindy Shapiro is teaching a papercutting class at the Main Line Arts Center in Haverford, PA titled *Papercutting: Reviving a Polish, Jewish, and Mexican Folk Art*.

<https://www.mainlineart.org/?s=papercutting>

Starts Wednesday, May 15 · Print, Paper and Book Arts · Beginner · Instructor: Mindy Sue Shapiro

Mindy Shapiro

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www.personalizedpapercuts.com

Mindy Shapiro, who is not only a papercut artist but also a Certified Zentangle Teacher, is also instructing a nature-inspired papercutting workshop at Morris Arboretum in April.

Nature-Inspired Papercutting:

Papercutting is an ancient art dating back to the creation of paper during the first century in China. Since that time, artisans have used paper, scissors, and knives to create both ornamental and functional objects. Perhaps you made a snowflake in grade school or have seen silhouettes. These are forms of papercutting. In this class you will make flower papercuts based on a template. For those who prefer to design your own papercut, there will be real flowers and/or leaves to inspire your drawing. Please bring an #11 X-acto knife and a cutting mat.

Sunday, April 7

10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Duration 2 1/2 hours

Prices range from \$40.00 to \$45.00

<https://experience.morrisarboretum.org/Policies.aspx>

Rachel Asarnow is going to have a papercut included in an exhibit sponsored by Lesley University and Violence Transformed called The Future of the Past: Art and Activism. It will be installed in the Lesley University Marran Gallery, 34 Mellen Street, Cambridge MA 02138 from March 18 - April 15, 2019. The reception is March 26, 6:30 - 8:30pm.

<http://www.violencetransformed.com/>

<https://lesley.edu/events/the-future-of-the-past-art-and-activism>

You can see more of Rachel's work here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rachelwilla/sets/>

Alice Masek and Rosa Leff will be representing GAP as their work is featured in a papercutting exhibit focused on building friendship between China, Japan, and America through papercutting. It will be held in Xianyang, China (the suburb of Xian near the airport) at the Workers Gallery at the Xianyang Exhibit Hall from May 16th through May 19th. There will be a reception on Friday May 17th in the middle of the day, with papercutting exchange and

demonstration, a mid-day lunch, some speeches and TV cameras.

In addition to Alice and Rosa number of Japanese and Chinese papercutters will be exhibiting. More information is still to come. Already Rosa and Alice are preparing for the long trip! What fun! Alice Helen Masek and her husband Mike, who will accompany her on this adventure.

Annie Stone's collage, "Upstairs, Downstairs" is featured in the Da Vinci Art Alliance (704 Catharine St., Philadelphia) exhibition featuring works on or with paper. Works on Paper is a competition juried by Rochelle Toner. While thematically open, this exhibition features the diverse and tactile nature of work with and on paper.

Opening reception: March 17th, 2019 1-5pm

Exhibit will be on display through April 7th.

<http://www.davinciartalliance.org/works-on-paper-ii>

Kathryn White's collage, *When I'm Gone, Who Will Remember Me?* was juried into a show at the Phyllis Lamphere Gallery of the Washington State Convention Center at 705 Pike Street in Seattle, WA. This papercut collage is about our vanishing wildlife, specifically rhinos, and also applies to all of us as well. The exhibit runs from January 12 to March 31, 2019.