

Call for Art

Places in Paper

A Guild of American Papercutters Exhibition

Gallery 3700
3700 Four Mile Dr.
Arlington, VA



Their Three Cities, By Melanie Kehoss

September 9– December 8, 2019
Reception October 12, 3 – 5 pm

with optional travel to

Westover Library
1644 N McKinley Rd
Arlington, VA

December 17, 2019
– February 18, 2020

Possible additional venues.

GAP invites members to submit their artwork for Places in Paper, a juried show gracing two Arlington, VA venues. All artists with current GAP memberships are eligible to submit work through July 15.

GAP members hail from all regions of the country and across the globe. We draw on traditions from many cultures, passed down through generations. We are rural and urban, North and South, coast and mountain. Places in Paper invites original cut paper work about where we live, where we come from, and where our dreams take place.

Thanks to support from Arlington County, three entries will receive cash awards and return shipping of unsold artwork will be provided! For more information and to apply, visit www.papercutters.org -> Events -> Call for Art

Jurors:

Anne Burton Gallery Director of BlackRock Center for the Arts

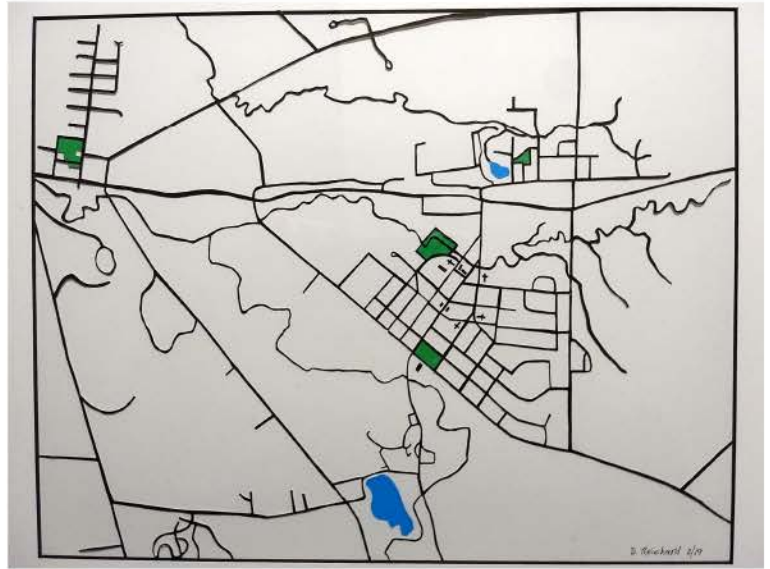
Melanie Kehoss Co-Vice President of Membership of Guild of American Papercutters

First Cut

From GAP member Dave Reichard:

My work will be on display during the month of June at the Sherrill, NY library. Besides papercuttings, the exhibit will also include some of my pen and ink and colored pencil pieces.

Check out Dave's papercut map of Sherrill, NY on the right!



GAP Takes Xi'an!

BY ROSA LEFF

When fellow GAP member Alice Masek reached out to me about an exhibition she was participating in I was immediately intrigued. After a few emails back and forth were I explained that I couldn't really come because of my day job, because of the cost of flights, needing to find a dog sitter, etc. I boarded my 13 hour flight to Beijing and then a mercifully shorter one to Xi'an.

My husband and I spent the first week wandering around the historic walled city, Xi'an. We spent 5 hours walking along the wall itself. We watched the bridal photo shoots on De Fu Xiang street, wandered the massive Tang Paradise park, took in the stunning relief carvings at the Giant Wild Goose Pagoda and so much more. Though no one (and I do mean no one) spoke English, people everywhere found a way to ask who we were and what we were doing in Xi'an. Though Xi'an has long been a tourist destination for the Chinese because of its rich history, it is only now beginning to see a slow trickle of foreign tourists. Here in the United States I frequently find myself having to point out to people that they do actually know what papercutting is and have seen it before, but in China I didn't even need words.



Bazaar, By Rosa Leff (Based on a photo taken in Xi'an)

I could point to a nearby papercut, a wheatpaste mural of a cut, or a traditional papercut image cut into a business sign, point back to myself and motion cutting "rock, paper, scissors" style. Each time I was instantaneously met with a nod, a smile, and something that I assume means "Oh, you're a papercutter!" While I enjoyed the paintings and carved jade in museums like the Xi'an Qujiang Museum Of Fine Arts, there was something so comforting about being surrounded by so many papercuts and so many papercut influenced artworks as I walked around the city. They popped up in the most unexpected places and helped to ground me

First Cut

My husband and I spent the first week wandering around the historic walled city, Xi'an. We spent 5 hours walking along the wall itself. We watched the bridal photo shoots on De Fu Xiang street, wandered the massive Tang Paradise park, took in the stunning relief carvings at the Giant Wild Goose Pagoda and so much more. Though no one (and I do mean no one) spoke English, people everywhere found a way to ask who we were and what we were doing in Xi'an. Though Xi'an has long been a tourist destination for the Chinese because of its rich history, it is only now beginning to see a slow trickle of foreign tourists. Here in the United States I frequently find myself having to point out to people that they do actually know what papercutting is and have seen it before, but in China I didn't even need words.

I could point to a nearby papercut, a wheatpaste mural of a cut, or a traditional papercut image cut into a business sign, point back to myself and motion cutting "rock, paper, scissors" style. Each time I was instantaneously met with a nod, a smile, and something that I assume means "Oh, you're a papercutter!" While I enjoyed the paintings and carved jade in museums like the Xi'an Qujiang Museum Of Fine Arts, there was something so comforting about being surrounded by so many papercuts and so many papercut influenced artworks as I walked around the city. They popped up in the most unexpected places and helped to ground me in place where I couldn't read a thing and couldn't identify half of what I was eating.



Stretchy Pants, By Rosa Leff

I was so delightfully clueless that when I arrived at the Chinese Worker Art Gallery to deliver my works for the exhibition I was not at all sure that my taxi had delivered me to the correct spot. I slowly turned in circles not realizing that I was being dwarfed by a 20x10 foot sign advertising the "China-U.S.-Japan Papercutting Exchange Exhibition." I quickly used a translation app to text Han Jing, Chairman of the Xi'an Papercutting Association, that I thought I was standing outside on the corner and, though I always hate to admit it- I needed help. A moment later he came down to look for "the giant American in the yellow dress."



Yin Yang, By Alice Masek

Inside, Alice and Mike Masek were hanging her pieces which included her Technology and Nature Yin Yang and a cut she designed for The Viking Ski Club where she and Mike are both members. While all the cuts were being hung a translator, Lei, explained to me that Han Jing wanted my works retitled in Mandarin. "...Well, this one is called Stretchy Pants." I was met with silence as she, I assume, attempted to figure out if she had understood me correctly. I went on to explain that I had taken the photo the cut was based on in Yokohama the previous summer and that I decided to cut the image because it reminded me that the next time I go to Yokohama ...

First Cut

...I should wear large pants with an elastic waist so I can eat a lot more without feeling uncomfortable.” Han Jing looked at her expectantly as he awaited translation. After she said something to him, much more brief than my explanation, he began to laugh and puff out his cheeks as though his mouth was full. “Yes, exactly.” Finally I was being understood and thus my piece was renamed “A Lot of Foods.”

The day of the exhibition I walked in to a packed gallery and was immediately pulled in all directions at once. Everyone wanted to take pictures with me, Alice, and our husbands. After two hours of photos I was able to some time looking at the Chinese and Japanese Artists’ papercuts. A personal favorite was the work of Japanese papercutter, Yoko Imbe whose piece used layers upon layers of hand cut paper in varying shades to capture the depth and rush of a river.

Perhaps the highlight for many of the attendees was the live papercutting. Alice had designed a long papercut, reminiscent of a totem pole, depicting many of the animals from her daughter’s farm in honor of her wedding. The Chinese artists, I believe, exclusively cut with scissors. Many of them asked Alice if they could keep her X-Acto knives which she, unsurprisingly, quickly agreed to although we have doubts about their ability to purchase replacement blades. Alice and I worked on her cut together and welcomed exhibitions guests to try their hand at it.



*Designed by Alice Masek,
Cut by her and event attendees.*

First Cut

The day continued with press interviews, awards, and with me and Alice being named honorary members of the Xi'an Papercutting Association.

Where has papercutting taken you? Would you like to travel with GAP? To let us know, or to get more information, email Rosa Leff, rosaleff@gmail.com



Chinese and Japanese Artists & Exhibition Guests look on (and join in!) as GAP Members Alice Masek & Rosa Leff Cut do a live demonstration.