

Check In With MINDY!

OUR NEW PRESIDENT



This is my first column in my new position as President of GAP. I am honored to serve our organization in this way. Many thanks to Jenn who served as President this past year. We have exciting things happening so it is a great time to be involved. You can read about our upcoming exhibit and other activities elsewhere in First Cut. I thought I would use this column to introduce myself.

I have been a member of GAP since 1996. It is amazing how time flies. I learned to papercut from Galia Goodman, who lives in Durham, NC. She used to teach at the now defunct KlezKamp. What is KlezKamp you might ask? It was an awesome klezmer music camp held Christmas week in the Catskills. In addition to music lessons, jams, concerts, and dancing for the musicians, there were workshops for the rest of us. In any given year you could expect offering in Yiddish women writers, Yiddish language, Eastern European cooking, Yiddish humor, Yiddish poetry, and art classes including papercutting. I was hooked after that week of cutting. I think I took to papercutting because I was a leather craftsperson until I gave that up due to being a vegetarian. The exacto knife reminded me of using a leather carving knife.

Soon after I began to cut, I received commissions and I began to teach others. I also attended some craft shows where I met papercut artists. It is likely I learned about GAP from an artist at one of those craft shows. I really cannot remember.

I first learned about papercutting as an art form from Tamar Fishman, a wonderful Judaic papercut artist who lives in the DC area, where I used to live. She most recently is known for cutting the Hanukkah stamp unveiled last year by the Postal Service. Tsirl Waletzky was another papercutter whose work I got to know through receiving her commissioned cards from various Jewish organizations.

I primarily do Jewish papercutting, but not exclusively. I also am a CZT, a certified Zentangle teacher. Sometimes I combine the two. In fact, last year at Collection I taught such a class.

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More Mindy!

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Besides being an artist, I have worked in the Jewish communal world for decades. I recently left my last position which has freed me up to be GAP President and focus more on my art. I am married to a wonderful man, Alan and we have a 15 year old son and a dog named Manny.

Feel free to contact me at any time about anything. You can reach me at mindsue39@gmail.com. You can also check out my website

www.personalizedpapercuts.com. And one last thing. Mark June 28-July 2, 2020 for our next papercutting conference! We decided to change the name from “collection” to conference because collection is a word associated with the Quaker spiritual tradition and we really host a conference.

-Have a great month!



Perfectly Misunderstandable

Works By Rosa Leff

Through September 1st

Frederick, MD

(Above: “The Fuzz,” 16x20”

Member Events

GO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!



Art In The Pearl

September 1st

Portland, Oregon

The Guild of American Papercutters will be tabling in the Education Tent at Art in the Pearl, Portland Oregon’s annual Fine Arts & Crafts Festival.

At Art in the Pearl, we’ll be sharing the joy of papercutting with the public. Participants of all ages will be invited to create a simple square scissor-cut to contribute to a collaborative piece. As each square is added, the piece will change and evolve, reflecting the community and the power of creative fellow-

REMEMBER!

Snap photos of your work & the events you attend!

Share them on:

Facebook: The Guild of American Papercutters

Instagram: @guildofamericanpapercutters

Email: rosaleff@gmail.com

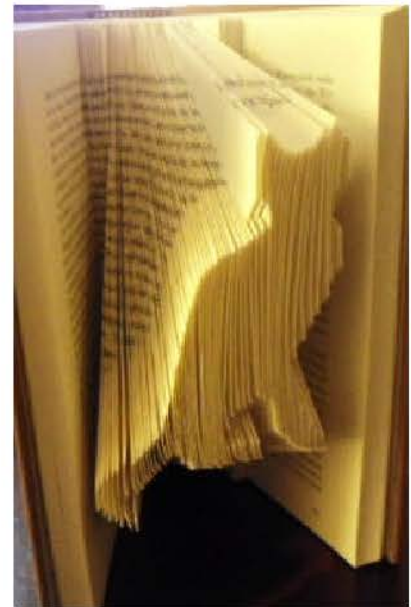
First Cut

Round Robin Altered Book Collaboration

BY JERI FOGEL

Looking ahead to next year's Pittsburgh Conference, GAP members are excited to begin a new collaborative project, and we want you to join in!

The idea, with many thanks to Kathy Trexel Reed for the inspiration, is to create several Round Robin Altered Art Book Collaborations, based on different themes--e.g. "the cosmos," "trees/leaves," "friendship," "upside-down worlds," "imagined natural world," "behind locked doors," "color wheel,"--the possibilities are endless. The art books will be created by small groups, most likely of three or four artists. You do not need to already be a member of GAP to participate.



Here's the plan:

1. You'll be placed into a small group of papercutters who have responded, and are geographically somewhat near each other (for ease of postal exchange). The group members first agree on a book (existing--it could be a blank book, if you like, or Carl Sagan's *Cosmos*, or a work on abstract painting...) to work together on, a theme, and possibly some parameters for the artistic treatment of the book (if there are any--for instance, will each person do a certain number of pages? will there be any overall color or texture palette? etc.).
2. Then, the first member works for up to a month, starting to alter the book according to plan. Each member sends the book by mail to the next member, to have new art and alteration added to it, until everyone has had a chance to create and build on it--then the book goes around a second time for final touches, photos, etc.
3. Finally, a designated member mails the book to GAP. If you are sending from overseas, be sure to schedule in a week or two for transit, and ask Jeri about defraying postal costs if necessary. The goal is to create three or four books by the time of next year's Conference in June/July in Pittsburgh, to exhibit them there, and to auction them off to support GAP's activities and membership.



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Round Robin Altered Book Collaboration

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If you would like to be part of one of the Round Robin Altered Art Book Groups, send a message to jerise@jerise.com by August 31st (ideally), giving your name, address, and any ideas you have about themes/books. Also, let us know if you have friends who'd like to be in your group, or participate in another group, and we can contact them with information also! If you want to see where the idea came from: Check out Tom Phillips' project A Humument, which was the inspiration for all of this years ago when GAP member Stuart Copans spoke to the Guild about this kind of artwork! (<http://www.tomphillips.co.uk/works/artists-books/item/5286-a-humument> , and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Humument)

Looking forward to hearing from you, and making art with you!

Contact: Jeri Fogel, jerise@jerise.com, 518-530-8917, Instagram: [@jerise_papercut](https://www.instagram.com/jerise_papercut)



GAP Goes To The Capital!

On July 30, I had the pleasure of collaborating with Anne Burton of Blackrock Center for the Arts and our own Tamar Shadur to select art for "Places in Paper". We juried in 35 wonderful works of art for the traveling exhibit, which will grace Gallery 3700 in Arlington, VA throughout the fall (okay, it's not quite the nation's capital, but close enough). The artists hail from 17 states and Lithuania, thus wonderfully reflecting the title of the show. Awards will be announced in the next issue of First Cut.

As a community primer for the exhibit, I worked with Arlington County to assemble "Knife Paper Scissors: A Global History of Papercutting." The educational exhibit features examples and descriptions of several styles of papercutting from around the world, and will be on.....

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GAP Goes To The Capital

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display at Gallery 3700 until “Places in Paper” begins. Images include historic cuts such as a devotional from GAP’s Permanent Collection, plus art by Yehudit Shadur (courtesy of Tamar), Marie-Helene Grabman, and Kathleen Trenchard. Gallery coordinator Joan Lynch has graciously donated copies of the fourteen color posters to GAP. Please contact me (mkehoss@outlook.com) if your community would like to display them!

The October 12 public reception for “Places in Paper” will directly follow the annual in-person meeting of GAP’s board. Limited numbers of general members are welcome to attend the meeting, as well as other fun and informal gatherings throughout the weekend. Please email me if you would like to be contacted about the weekend’s events!

places in paper

*A Guild of American Papercutters
Juried Exhibit*

Gallery 3700
3700 Four Mile Run Dr.
Arlington, VA
Sept. 9 – Dec. 8, 2019

Westover Library
1644 N McKinley Rd
Arlington, VA
Dec. 17, 2019 – Feb. 18, 2020

Public Reception at Gallery 3700
October 12, 3 – 5 pm



GAP members continue traditions from many cultures, passed down through generations. We are rural and urban, North and South, coast and plain. The 34 artists of **Places in Paper** use papercutting to explore where we live, where we come from, and where our dreams take place.

Curated by **Melanie Kehoss**, Co-VP of Membership of GAP and juried by **Anne Burton** of BlackRock Center for the Arts and **Tamar Shadur** of Shadur Arts.

Image: Lorraine Bubar, “Wrong Direction”. Title design: Jerise Fogel. This program is supported in part by Arlington County through the Arlington Cultural Affairs division of Arlington Economic Development and the Arlington Commission for the Arts.