

First Cut

Communication From Members Of The Guild Of American Papercutters
November 2019

Check In With Mindy

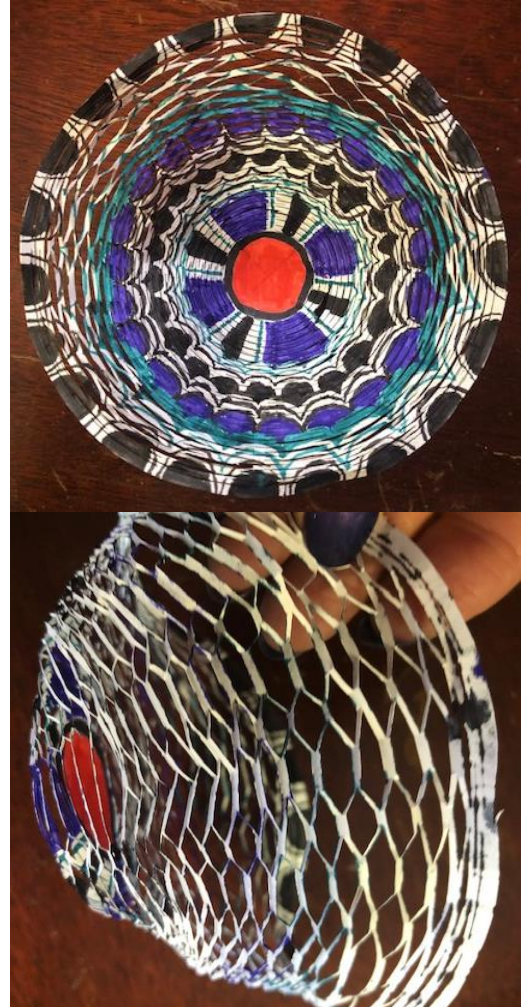
With Thanksgiving around the corner, I am pausing to give thanks for this wonderful papercutting community. The GAP board is filled with amazing, talented and active people who on a daily basis volunteer their talents to further the goals of our organization. Beyond the board, I marvel at the serendipity and full circle of papercutting connections. In particular I am thinking about math! Yes you read that correctly. During the St. Louis Collection (2012) Marie-Helene taught a class on making air vases out of Tyvek paper. This class taught me several lessons: 1. Tyvek is really easy to cut and it does not rip 2. It is possible to cut something flat, mathematical and make it 3D.

I have kept everything I have ever created from our Collections (now renamed the Conference) and the air vase is the item I have returned to thinking about over and over. So it was such a delight when I received the artist book chosen by Kathy Trexel Reed. Two different groups of GAP members are decorating and altering books to auction off at our next conference in June. The team I am on is working on a book called *Fragments of Infinity: A Kaleidoscope of Math and Art*. The book is a marvel to me. The other art form I spend significant time teaching and practicing is Zentangle®. Many of the tangled patterns are drawn and shaded to not only look Escher-like but with mathematical qualities. I love combining papercutting with Zentangle® and wrote about this a few years back for *First Cut*. Anyway, as I am looking through this book and determining which pages I will alter/decorate, I land on page 45 where this is a picture of a sequence of rotated polygons creating a roof for the Expo '67 in Montreal. Looking at the picture, I did not see a roof, I saw the air vase made back in St. Louis out of black Tyvek. This picture inspired me to not only make a few air vases, but to decorate them with Zentangle® patterns; giving me another opportunity to connect these two artforms.

So thank you to the organizers of the St. Louis Collection, to Marie-Helen for introducing me to the air vase, to Maria Thomas and Rick Roberts, who founded Zentangle® and to Kathy Trexel Reed who chose just the right book. And because this book is so inspiring, I am off to the Museum of Mathematics in New York City to see an origami exhibit. Tune back in next month and I'll let you know about it!



Polygon Roof.



Two Views of Mindy's Air Vase.

"Places In Paper" Award Winners

The jury selected the first six award winners (among non-board members) based on craftsmanship, originality, composition, and how they fit the theme. The artists kindly provided permission to use their artwork on the greeting cards sent to all active members this year. (If you did not receive your four cards in the mail, please check your profile to make sure your membership is active and that your mailing address is correct.) Visitors voted by ballot for the Viewer's Choice Award; votes were tallied after the reception on October 12.



Creole Cowboys (Above)

Megg Sorensen

Elton, LA

Juror's Award

"I live in SW Louisiana, where a vibrant Creole cowboy culture thrives. This piece is inspired by zydeco trail rides, and my neighbors who would ride their horses down the street when I lived in the city of Lafayette."



Wrong Direction (Above)

Lorraine Bubar

Los Angeles, CA

Best In Show

"My current papercuts contrast the beauty of the place and the reality of how some people are marginalized. There is a dramatic disparity in cities between how the privileged live busy lives with the homeless increasingly occupying empty spaces in the same neighborhoods."

Cows on the Concourse (Right)

June Gengler

Monona, WI

Publication award

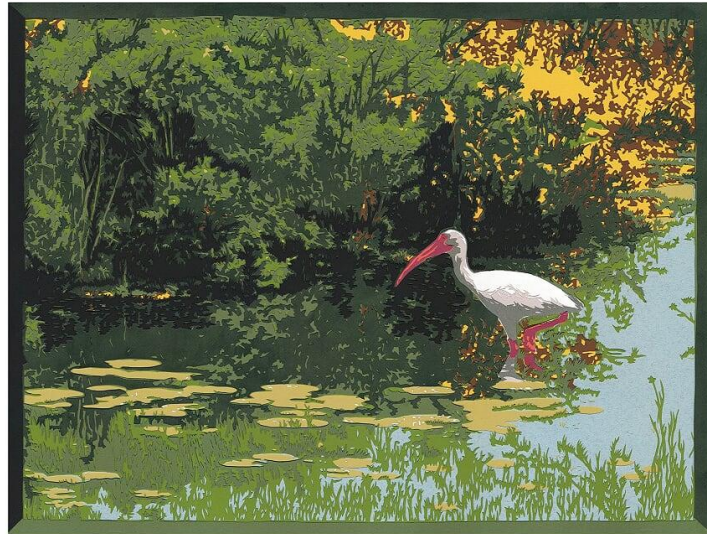
"Madison is the capital of Wisconsin, the Dairy State. Every June, for Dairy Month, the cows are brought to the Capitol to celebrate."





***this way or that way* (Below)** by Nathan Vernau
Chicago, IL
Publication Award

"My recent work presents interior spaces that conjure ideas reflecting our state of mind. They are places that include symbolic imagery referencing communication and memory."



***Water Lilies and Ibis with Yellow Ibis* (Above)**
Richard Schuchman
Umatilla, FL
Juror's Award

"This piece depicts natural Florida, from a photo I took of my back yard."

***The Thistle, the Fox and the Bee* (Left)** by Lucrezia Bieler
Tallahassee, FL
Viewer's Choice Award

"The fox shows persistence and patience, a keen observer and skilled at remaining unnoticed. The bee is pollinating plants and the thistle assuring continued survival. Interconnectedness of the web of life and flow of its energy are symbolized. This free-floating scissors-cutting is cut like lace."



***Sugaring Off* (Above)** by Carolyn Guest
Saint Johnsbury, VT
Publication Award

"My favorite season growing up was early spring when the neighbors tapped the maple trees and made syrup. Sometimes they would "sugar off" or boil down some syrup, serve it fresh packed in snow with raised doughnuts and sour pickles."

Member Events

Katherine Fahey, The Miniature Holiday Exhibition
December 4th-28th, 2019
Opening Reception: 12/7, 6-9pm

Y:ART Gallery (Baltimore) is pleased to announce the opening of its 5th annual winter holiday exhibition with miniature works from an eclectic group of over 50 local artists.

"THE MINIATURE HOLIDAY EXHIBITION" brings together Baltimore's exceptionally creative community with each artist presenting a collection of distinctive small-scale works loaded with passion and pondering. The majority of artworks measure under 12 x 12 inches and highlight a variety of mediums including: painting, mixed-media, sculpture and metal work. This is a cash & carry show, with a rotating assortment of artwork, perfect for holiday gift giving.

Nancy Schwartz-Katz "Meaning Within the Letters: Aleph-Kapf"

November 5, 2019-January 5, 2020

Public Reception December 8 2:30-4:30

Artist talk 3:00

11 papercuts illustrating the inner meaning of the Hebrew letters. Layered with film for an ethereal effect.



Temple Tifereth Israel
Hartzmark Gallery
26000 Beachwood, Ohio
www.nancy-schwartz-katz.com

Rosa Leff, Mixture

December 5 - 22, 2019

Opening Reception: Saturday, 12/7, 2 - 4 pm

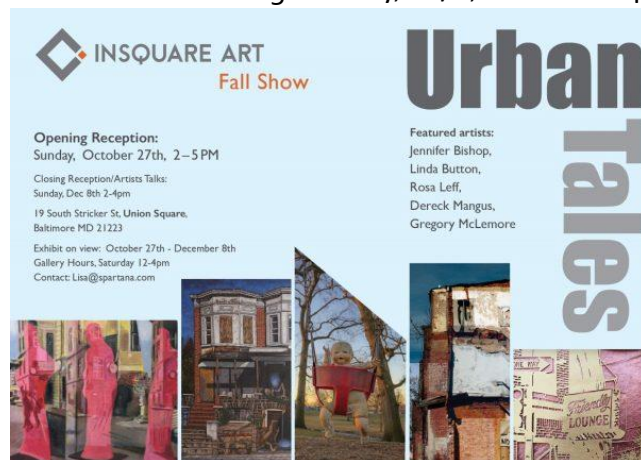


Touchstone Gallery presents Mixture, a group show celebrating the artistic talent and skill of our local arts community. This exhibition will feature over 150 works by DC area artists (including GAP member Rosa Leff) who applied to Touchstone's Spotlight Art Series 2019, as well as works by Touchstone's own member artists.

Rosa Leff, Urban Tales

InSquare Art, Baltimore.

Artist Talks & Closing: Sunday, 12/8, 2019 at 2-4pm



Rosa Leff, Then and Only (Solo Exhibit)

Saturdays, Through January 25, 2020

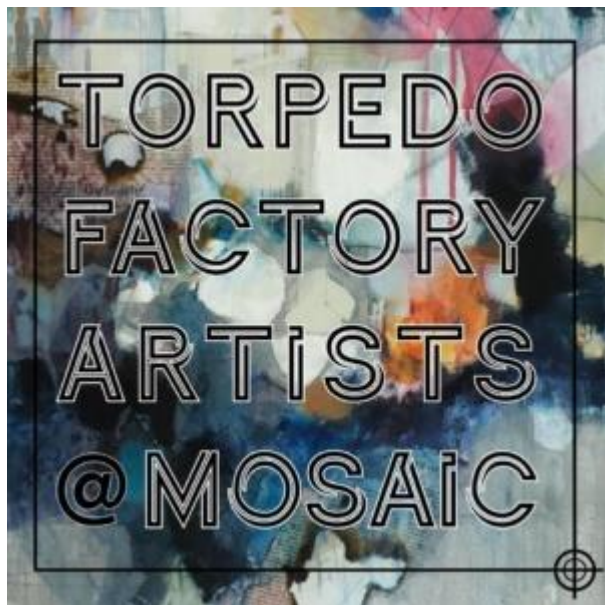
Open 11am-4pm



Melanie Kehoss & Rosa Leff, Give the Gift of Art!

Through January 5

Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic will be filled with artworks 24"x24" and smaller-perfect for holiday shopping!



105 District Ave in Fairfax, Virginia.

Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm.

Snippets



EVENTBRITE.COM

Papercutting Workshop w/ Rosa Leff

Sat, December 14, 2019

10:00am – 1:00pm

Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/papercutting-workshop-w-rosa-leff-tickets-81672355213>

Calls for Art

Renewal: Upstream Gallery Small Works Show 2020

We invite artists to submit small works interpreting the concept of Renewal for a national juried exhibit to be held at [Upstream Gallery](#), a well-known, beautiful venue only 20 minutes from Manhattan in Hastings on Hudson, NY. The exhibit will hang from January 2-26, 2020. Artists' reception will be on January 5th, 2020. Entries in all media are welcome including drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, photography, digital and sculpture. The size limit is 20" in any direction including the frame or base. Please note: this size is slightly larger than in previous years. The gallery will retain a 30% Commission on all sales; all work must be for sale. All accepted works must be framed and ready to hang from a wire. Sculptures must include their own base. Minimum entry of 3 pieces \$45, \$5 additional for each piece to maximum of 6 entries. Deadline: December 1, 2019. [More info](#). Contact: email or call 914-674-8548.

33rd Annual McNeese National Works on Paper Exhibition McNeese State University/Dept. of Visual Arts

4205 Ryan St.

Lake Charles, LA 70609

Call Type: Competitions

Eligibility: National

State: Louisiana

Fee: \$35.00 (33rd Annual McNeese National Works on Paper Exhibition)

Entry Deadline: 2/14/20

Number of Applications Allowed: 3

The 33rd Annual McNeese National Works on Paper Exhibition will be juried by Eleanor Heartney, art critic and contributing editor to *Art in America* and *Artpress*. \$3,000 is available for purchase awards. The awards will become part of the McNeese's Works on Paper Permanent Collection.

Eligible for entry are works in any medium that is on or of paper. The artwork, including frame, should not exceed 40 inches in any dimension.

A non-refundable entry fee of \$35 is charged each entrant. This fee entitles the artist a maximum of three entries. The deadline for entry is February 14, 2020.

The exhibition will be on view from March 26 through May 8, 2020 in the Grand Gallery, Shearman Fine Arts Annex, McNeese State University, Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Learn more and enter at <http://www.mcneeseartonline.org/>

-Thanks Liz Goss for sharing these opportunities!

Featured Member

Cut Paper Artist Wendy Bale to Release "Little Stories", a New Series of Small Works

Wendy Bale will release a series of 24 small cut paper works inspired by nature stories. Each 6"x6" piece illustrates the artist's stories gathered in the outdoors, but also invites reflections of the viewers own experiences. The Little Stories series celebrates the love of nature and the common bond people feel sharing these favorite elements of the world around us.

"These works came about as a reaction to my larger paper sculptures. My art often sparks comments and story-telling that makes the viewers really light up," she explained. "For this series, I wanted to offer something approachable that intentionally opened the door to these conversations."

Bale is a nature artist known for hand-cut paper sculptures and charcoal drawings. Based in Western New York, she works out of her studio at Sandhill Designs, and often collaborates with her furniture-designer husband, Bill. The Bales are currently working on another duo gallery show for next spring.

Following a live pop up celebration in Jamestown, NY, the Little Stories series will be released online December 1, 2019 via www.WendyBaleArt1st.com and Instagram @Wendy_Bale_Art1st

For additional information, contact Wendy Bale at wubale@sandhilldesigns.com
Instagram @Wendy_Bale_Art1st, Facebook Wendy Bale Art1st



Above: Little Nest Egg, Hand-cut Paper, 6 x 6 inches

Bottom Right: Little Snow Queen, Hand-cut Paper, 6 x 6 inches

Bottom Left: Same as above, cropped



In review:
Rosa Leff with Sally Canzoneri
Van Landingham Gallery at The Torpedo Factory

As a former member of the Torpedo Factory's Gallery 311 (now the Van Landingham Gallery), I have spent many hours cutting while monitoring the space, attempting to keep a tidy pile of scraps on the work table. So when I visited Rosa Leff's show, the snipped debris on the floor surrounding the artist struck me immediately. The flying bits seemed to attract visitors like ducks to breadcrumbs, and they were awarded with a stunning display.

Rosa works directly from her own photographs of urban scenes, filled with densely packed storefronts and tangles of electrical lines. She cuts the scenes as she finds them, with no or little apparent editing. The results stymie one's ability to take in the image in a single glance.

I imagine myself on one of the streets Rosa has depicted. What would I notice? Accustomed to visual noise, my mind does not take in every sale sign, electrical transformer, architectural element... Even looking at the original photo, I would likely ignore half the extraneous information presented. But, by democratically cutting each detail, the viewer is asked to see everything.



This phenomenon proved itself through Rosa's pairings with Sally Canzoneri's lenticular photographs (pictured above). Both artists used the same photographs, by Canzoneri, for two works. The image pairs read so differently from each other that I had not realized the connection until it was pointed out to me. The lenticulars, also cut-up versions of the photos, prompt the viewer to put them back together, to see the whole. The papercuts, meanwhile, ask to be enjoyed bit by bit. Fitting, then, that bits attracted me from the start.

Though this show has concluded, Rosa's work is on view at the Bromo-Seltzer Arts Tower, Baltimore, MD, until Jan. 25 and at Mosaic Gallery in Fairfax, VA until Jan. 5.

Dues going up, but not necessarily for you!

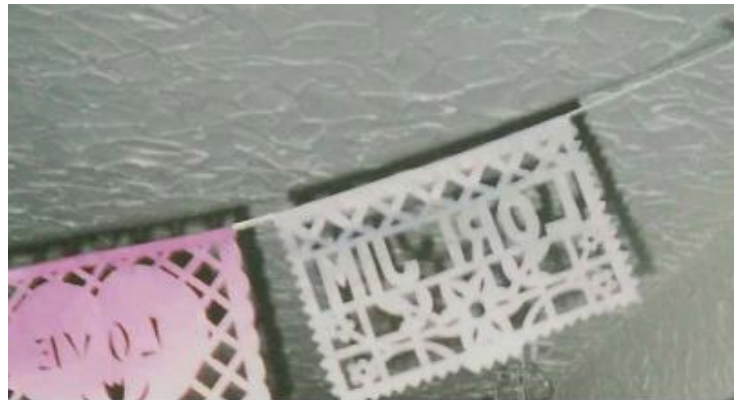
The GAP board has approved an increase in annual membership fees from \$35 to \$40 starting in 2020. Even with this modest increase, our dues will remain less than most arts organizations. But, **until January 1, 2020**, members have an opportunity to renew for **up to five years at the current rate!** Don't worry, you will not be penalized for renewing early; your membership will be active for one year past your due date, no matter when you renew. At this time, you can renew online for \$35 for one year. OR you can send a check for your renewal for up to 5 years at \$35 per year to:

GAP
P.O. Box 384
214 South Harrison Avenue
Somerset, PA 15501



What Are You Thankful For?

My heart overflows with abundance of passion to be able to CUT PAPER and make a piece of art to be cherished forever in homes. Having discovered the art of paper-cutting as a child from my German, Polish mother, I loved cutting butterflies and snowflakes, and also drawing portraits and working with clay, and other art mediums. I am thankful that I have family and health and pray constantly for others to have good health and abundance of gratitude. --**Cindi Harwood Rose**



I'm grateful for my teacher, Elzbieta Kaleta, who taught wychinanki at Ghost Ranch in 1993. I went thinking it would be interesting, but didn't expect to be hooked for life! Linda Emmerson was already much in demand as a paper cutter in Ames, and her work also added to my learning. It has been a great adventure and GAP Collections over the years are always so inspiring and SO much fun with great friendships formed! Kathleen Trenchard's papel picado gave me the idea for decor for our daughter's wedding rehearsal venue, a Mexican themed B&B. I found a photo from that 2003 event (Above & Left).... --**Beth Wunder**

Loved getting the GAP notecards. --**Julianne Walden**