

Outside the Box

Cardboard Art





Origin of Corrugated Cardboard

Corrugated cardboard is present today in our daily lives. We see it on the market in fruit boxes, in courier delivery trucks, in packages that bring parts or raw materials to industry. Although the omnipresence of this material makes us think that it has existed all our lives, the truth is that it was not invented until the middle of the 19th century and its first use is far from what we know today.

It all began in 1856, in England, when Edward G. Healy and Edward E. Allen patented a process with which they pleated paper, giving it a wavy shape. The objective was to introduce this paper inside the top hats to make them more durable and comfortable to wear.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0d6SSmQSwE&t=14s> (7 minutes)

<https://laughingsquid.com/cardboard-science-history/> (16 minutes--good)

Artists who painted on cardboard

Many famous artists, including **Picasso, Miro, Vuillard, Toulouse-Lautrec and Degas**, among others, painted pictures on cardboard. Cardboard is economical and readily available.

- <https://www.munchmuseet.no/en/our-collection/These-artworks-will-one-day-disappear/>

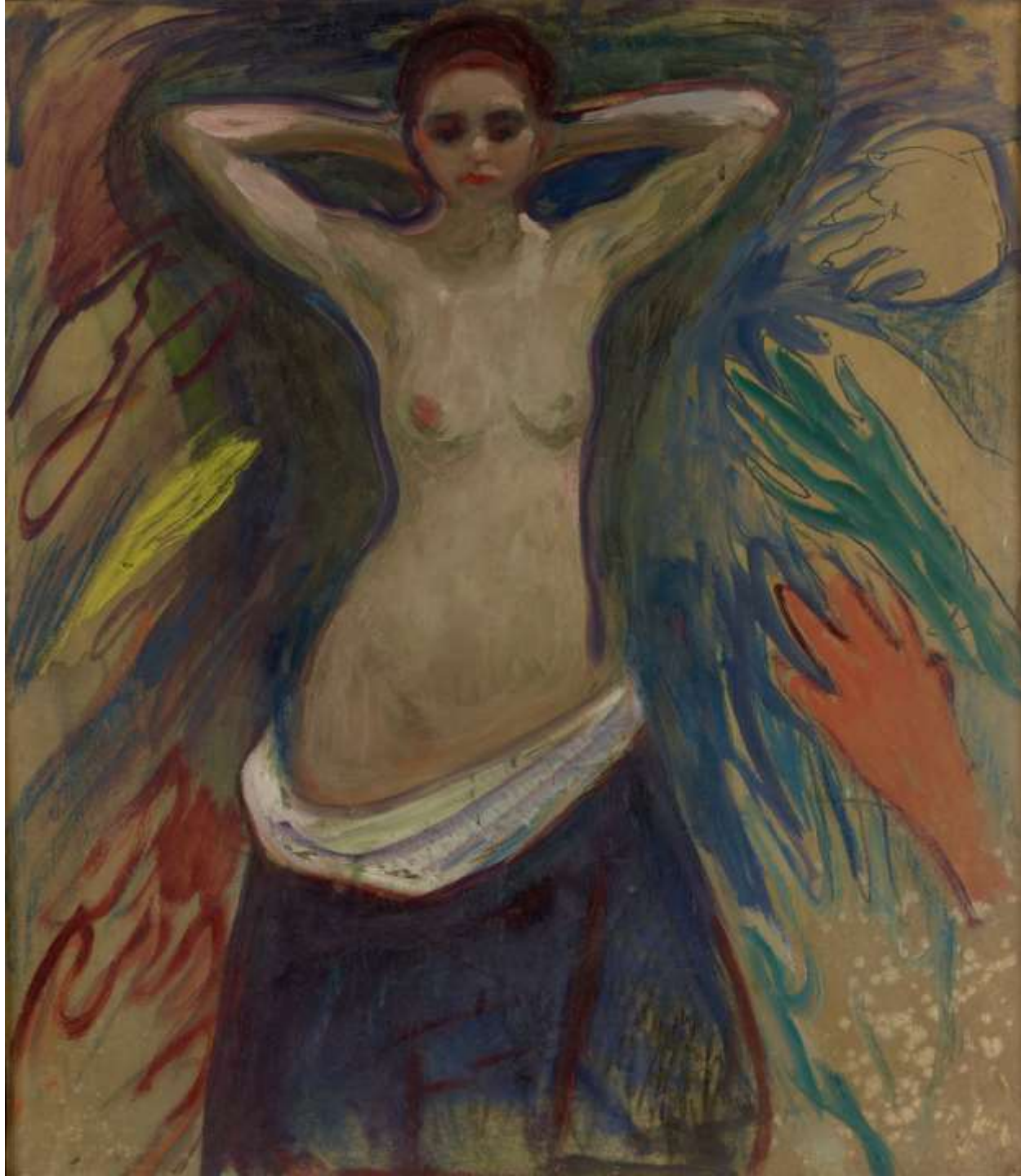
Edvard Munch

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<https://www.munchmuseet.no/en/our-collection/These-artworks-will-one-day-disappear/>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smHqrHeGtCw>





Gustav Metzger

Gustav Metzger (10 April 1926, Nuremberg – 1 March 2017, London) was a German artist and political activist who developed the concept of Auto-Destructive Art and the Art Strike. Together with John Sharkey, he initiated the Destruction in Art Symposium in 1966.

Metzger was recognized for his protests in the political and artistic realms.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ioYs20rnL8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaeUSoZnsW0&t=48s>







Frederic Tuten

Frederic Tuten (born December 2, 1936) is an American [novelist](#), [short story](#) writer and [essayist](#). He has written five novels – *The Adventures of Mao on the Long March* (1971), *Tallien: A Brief Romance* (1988), *Tintin in the New World: A Romance* (1993), *Van Gogh's Bad Café* (1997) and *The Green Hour* (2002) – as well as one book of inter-related [short stories](#), *Self-Portraits: Fictions* (2010), and [essays](#), many of the latter being about [contemporary art](#). His memoir *My Young Life* (2019) was published by [Simon & Schuster](#). Tuten received a Guggenheim Fellowship for Fiction and was given the Award for Distinguished Writing from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He was awarded three Pushcart Prizes and one O. Henry Prize.

- <https://www.guildhall.org/events/art-love-life-a-conversation-with-eric-fischl-and-frederic-tuten-about-his-memoir-my-young-life/>



The Telepathy of Desire
Frederic Tuten



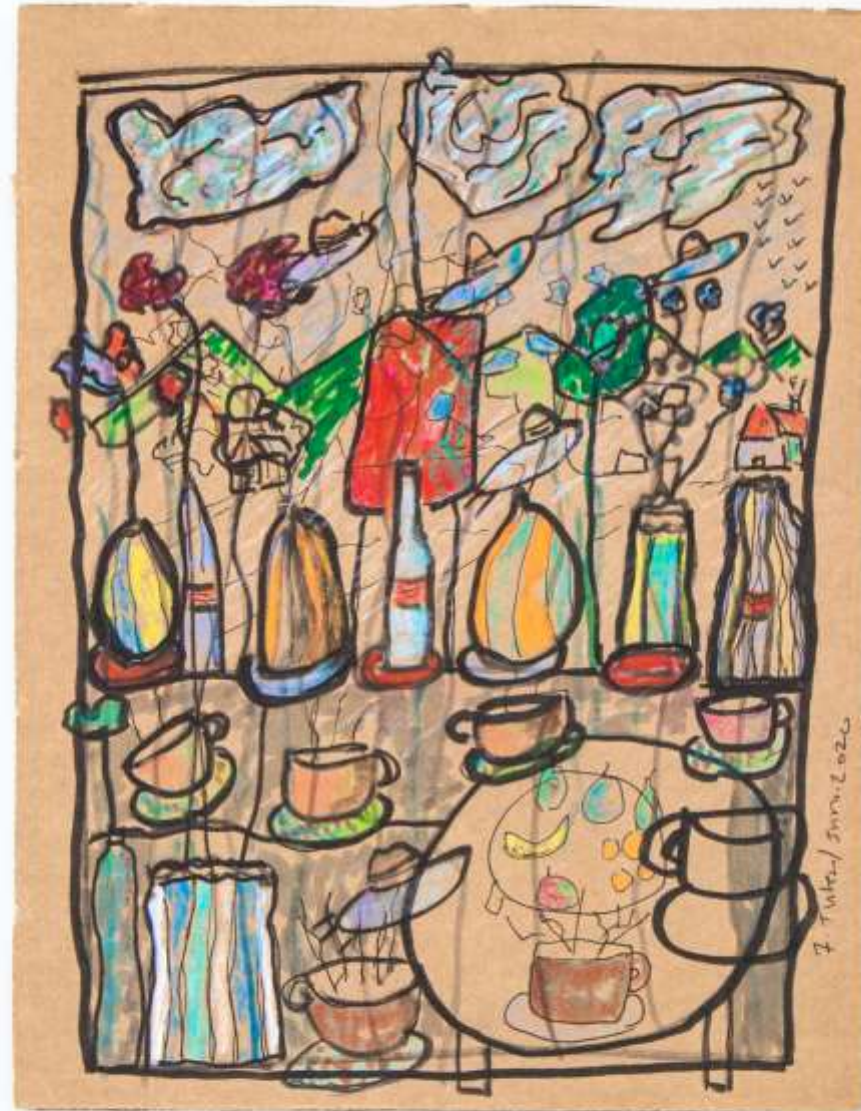




THE BAR AT TWILIGHT
STORIES



FREDERIC TUTEN



Artists who Sculpted in Cardboard

The cardboard box was first produced in England in 1817 followed by a patent for corrugated paper in 1856. Soon after in 1874, Oliver Long glued a corrugated paper line to a smooth paper, creating the first corrugated cardboard.

Since then, some of the most well-known artists have used corrugated cardboard: Robert Rauschenberg, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Chris Gilmour, Claes Oldenburg, Naum Gabo, and Richard Tuttle among others. In fact, during my time at the Fine Arts Museum of Bilbao, I had the chance to work on the painting entitled *La Liseuse* by Toulouse-Lautrec, where the artist chose corrugated cardboard as support. Curiously, this 'poor' material has been used in paintings, sculptures, installations, advertising products and political props, which end up as museum objects.

- <https://www.artemconservation.com/blog/introduction-corrugated-cardboard/>

Richard Tuttle

Richard Dean Tuttle is an American postminimalist artist known for his small, casual, subtle, intimate works. His art makes use of scale and line. His works span a range of formats, from sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking, and artist's books to installation and furniture.

- <https://art21.org/watch/extended-play/richard-tuttle-pollock-tiffany-short/>
- <https://art21.org/watch/extended-play/richard-tuttle-staying-contemporary-short/>
- <https://art21.org/watch/extended-play/richard-tuttle-art-life-short/>





EVOL

Tore Rinkveld aka Evol, is a German artist, born in 1972. He currently lives and works between Berlin, Germany and Moscow, Russia. He completed his education at Kuopio Academy of Arts and Crafts, Finland in 2000 and at HFG Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany in 2001.

Evol's artworks, created on found cardboard boxes, celebrate the architecture of an earlier time – the simple Berlin townhouses built around 1910. These ordinary buildings are typical of the neighborhood the artist has lived in for years – relics of a bygone era that have not yet succumbed to the gentrification sweeping the area. The cardboard provides a rich patina on which to stencil, with existing marks and structures reflecting the passage of time on the walls. The printed graphics, tape and other minute details found on the cardboard also echo the distressed nature and visual pollution of real urban landscapes. In both his studio-based works and his temporary street installations, Evol reduces the environment that surrounds us to bite-sized pieces. Through this reversal of scale, he somehow renders the work harmless: while evoking a stark urban environment, they remain charming and approachable. Drawing on his background in graffiti, he uses his artistic skills to explore the inner workings of the city and makes us look at our surroundings in a new light.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lGuLLj7LnA&t=8s> (street art in English—short)

<https://www.un-spaced.com/artists/34-evol/> (in German)

<http://www.fifty24sf.com/tag/evol> (French subtitles) good--shows process









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EVOL



Alex Uribe

Alex's work gives new life to used transient, decaying materials, capturing the ephemeral nature of decomposition and revitalizing it into an exciting new art form.

- <https://www.uribeart.com/alex-s-portfolio-1>
- <https://vimeo.com/50620477>





Sylvie Reno

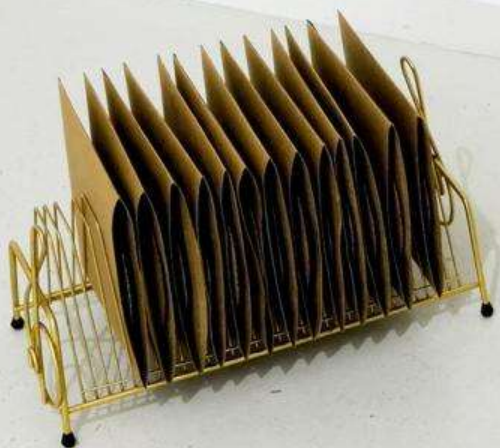
Not many women love the art of weaponry to the extent that french artist, Sylvie Reno does. A huge collection of cardboard replicas of automatic pistols, Kalashnikov's and knives adorn her art studio. She chisels and carves her creative arms like mason to get the correct shape. It is possible, to get mistaken for real one, by just looking at her creations. She uses smoother surface of cardboard for her weapon sculpturing. A smooth finishing and minute details are hallmark of her creations. She works exclusively with recycled cardboard. Her other creations include other daily items like tooth brush.

<http://www.documentsdartistes.org/artistes/reno/repro.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yE7fgCpWRM0&t=18s> (in French)











Sylvie Réno

Ana Serrano

When she's walking around the city, [Ana Serrano](#) is looking out for the little details: A facade paint patch mis-match, the lettering of a hand-crafted, corner liquor store sign, a blooming window box garden. The artist takes it all in, and brings it indoors.

Serrano's cardboard-constructed, three-dimensional worlds are an explosion of color. And in her Highland Park workshop, Serrano is an architect. There, the Mexican-American artist assembles -- and disassembles -- paper-made sculptures inspired by Latino pop culture, and the beauty found in the day-to-day built environment of Los Angeles.

- <https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/ana-serrano-creates-worlds-of-cardboard-and-paper>





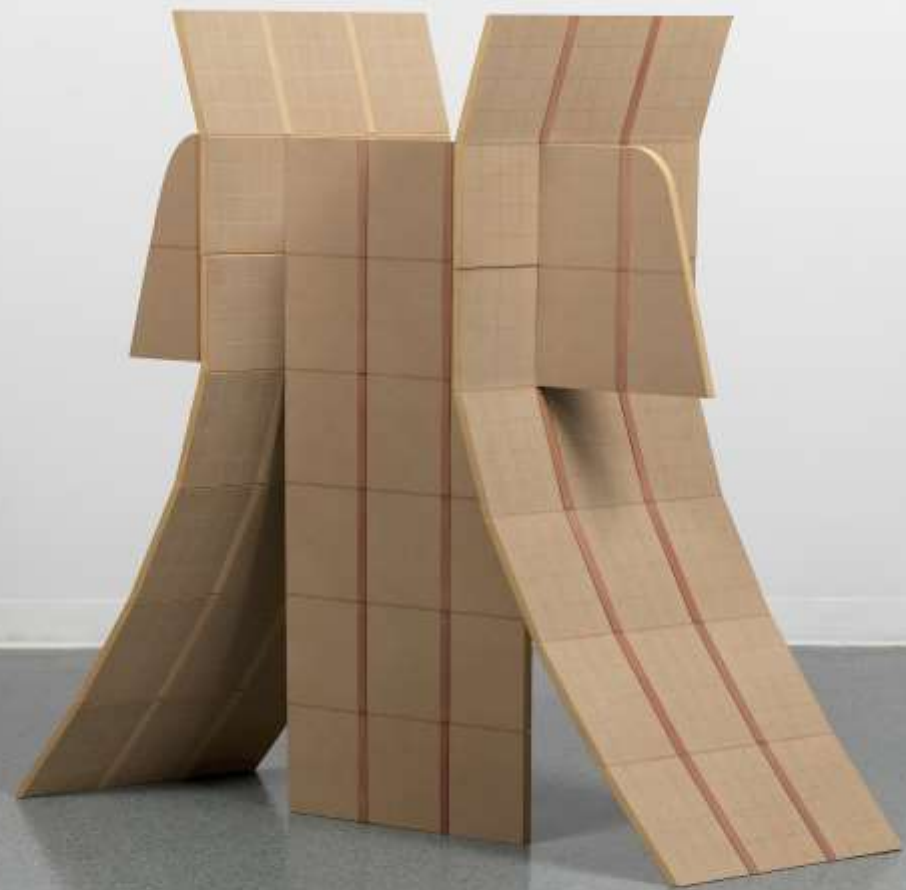




Diane Simpson

Diane Simpson was born in Joliet, Illinois in 1935. She undertook her BFA and MFA in Fine Art at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago between 1971-1978. Simpson constructs sculptures that evolve from a broad range of materials, clothing, and architectural sources, often addressing issues of gender and abstraction. She employs a diverse combination of materials in her sculptures, including cardboard, fibreboard, aluminium, wool, polyester, poplar, faux fur, fleece, mahogany, brass, copper and steel.

<https://vimeo.com/348894292>







James Grashow--The Cardboard Bernini

Mad or genius? Artist James Grashow has built - from cardboard - 15' fighting men, an anthropomorphized city, an ocean...and here he spends 4 years building a giant cardboard fountain -- inspired by the work of Baroque sculptor Gian Lorenzo Bernini.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfKly5yiPU8&t=77s>
- <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=Cardboard+Bernini#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:411e8322,vid:c50QwjgELAw>

The Cardboard Bernini

Ashes to ashes. Mush to mush.







James Lake

Cardboard artist James Lake describes his work as "a cardboard sculpture in its purest sense." James takes recycled materials and turns them into significant pieces of art.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3HS4Okf7-Q&t=9s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAHKGLpQ5WE&t=14s>

More disabled
people as arts
audiences







Scott Fife

Everything comes packed in [cardboard boxes](#), be it the food we eat or the phone we use. But after unpacking what do we do with these packaging materials. Of course, throw them away. [Scott Fife](#), an artist from America, found an effective way to use this inexpensive material in his art forms, roughly 25 years back. What started as saving money on raw material changed into passion soon. He used to pick cardboards from the streets, carry them all the way home, cut them, paste them glue them and all this gave birth to exclusive works of art. Surprising many with his creativity, Scott soon started using archival cardboard instead of the normal ones insuring his work lived till eternity.

But after seeing his life-like work, it won't be astonishing if you found it difficult to believe, that low tech tools like archival cardboard, Xacto knife, drywall screws, a screw gun, and glue were the only things used.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4x0tv2k5jU&t=80s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7oHpliwZs8>







Monami Ohno

Ten years ago, 19-year-old art student Monami Ohno picked up a cardboard box for a homework assignment and made what she described was a "bike-like thing". Her imaginative, almost life-like cardboard sculptures have gradually gained a following in recent years. (2021)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ge1anfTQ5NQ>







Ali Gozard

Ali Golzad: "... To me, these are invisible people. My choice of material, corrugated cardboard, to create bas-relief portraits of displaced children in their native habitats, reflects their unseen status. Like corrugated cardboard, the twenty million are everywhere yet invisible. I have struggled with my material to create images that are highly emotional. The three-dimensional shapes of the eyes, noses and mouths, the wrinkled clothing, and the shapes of the hands and arms, outlined with Sharpie-lines, are a result of my struggle with the cardboard to capture the empathy we would have for any enslaved people."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdyoXROPDEc>











Justin King

Paul Schankman introduces us to St. Louis' cardboard artist. Using old boxes and scraps, Justin King fashions large whimsical animals and then places them in public for people to enjoy until time and weather take their toll on his work, though some pieces have recently been saved and reused.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTBdrqMkvyl&t=115s>





Andy Barrett

The New York-based artist is so tuned in to cardboard that he noted the recycling pickup times in the different zones of the city, mapping them out so he can visit the neighborhoods and look for the colored paper cartons he uses to create his "[Carton Marquetry](#)."

All of the cardboard Barrett uses is reclaimed, and he doesn't alter the colors — just the shape. Occasionally, a recognizable logo appears in the cardboard montages, but more often the designs are obscure enough or the pieces are cut small enough that their nature becomes secondary to the piece as a whole.

In addition to New York City recycling, Barrett sometimes gets cardboard sent from friends abroad. Where it comes from is important to the art.



Ann Weber

My artistic journey began with ceramics. After 15 years making functional pottery, I left New York City for California to study with Viola Frey at California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland. It was Viola's totemic clay figures that inspired the scale of my work.

I started working in cardboard in 1991. Cardboard allows me to make monumental, yet lightweight forms, and eliminate the cumbersome process of clay. Frank Gehry's cardboard furniture was my initial inspiration. My abstract sculptures read as metaphors for life experiences, such as the balancing acts that define our lives. "How far can I build this before it collapses?" is a question on my mind as I work. Ultimately my interest is in expanding the possibilities of making beauty from a common and mundane material.

- <https://annwebersculpture.com/media> (4:20--amazing process)







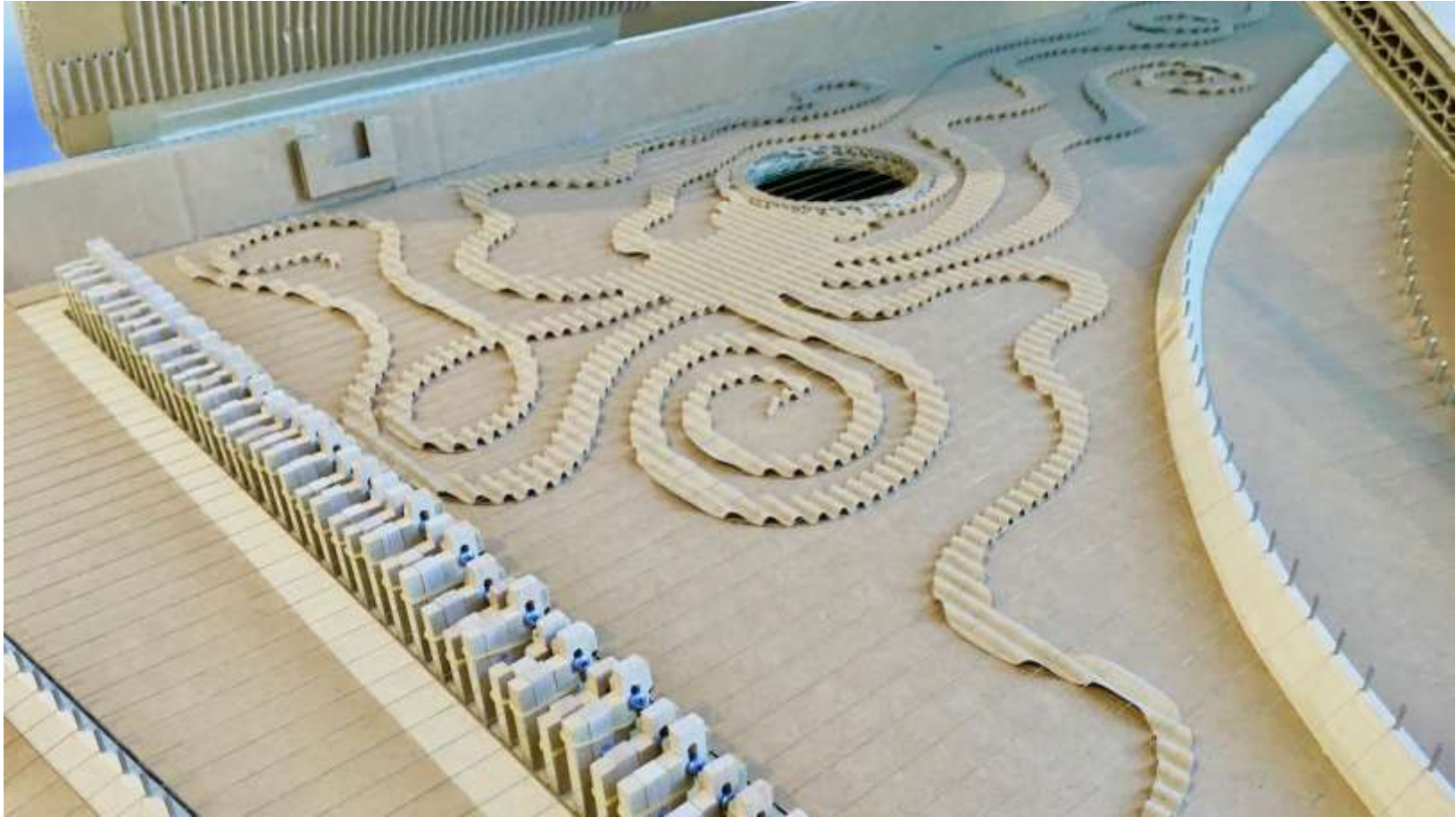


Taro Hattori

An Installation “V” consists of cardboard sculptures which are five replicated parts of life-size V2 rocket, the first ballistic missile, and light-box prints which shows metaphorical connections between V2 and my personal history. In the exhibition at Swarm Gallery, Oakland, only three parts were shown because of the space limitation.

By using corrugated cardboard, the ubiquitous material in our everyday life, I deactivate the symbol of monumental power. Skeletal ruin made of cardboard is non-functional but it delivers the spirit of object. The sculpture is the skeletal ruin of violent soul we all share.

- <https://www.facebook.com/c4newmusic/videos/753713505141882/>











Jillian Salik

Jillian Salik
DUEL TINT



Laurence Vallieres

Laurence Vallières is a Canadian sculptor and artist. She is particularly known for her sculptures made of upcycling materials: Her often larger-than-life sculptures include cars, chimpanzees, rhinos, elephants and bears. She usually uses strips of cardboard as her medium, which she bonds into sculptures. The artist, who studied in California, among other places, now lives in Montreal and was already part of the Knotenpunkt Festival in 2014.

<https://affenfaustgalerie.de/en/artist/laurence-vallieres/>

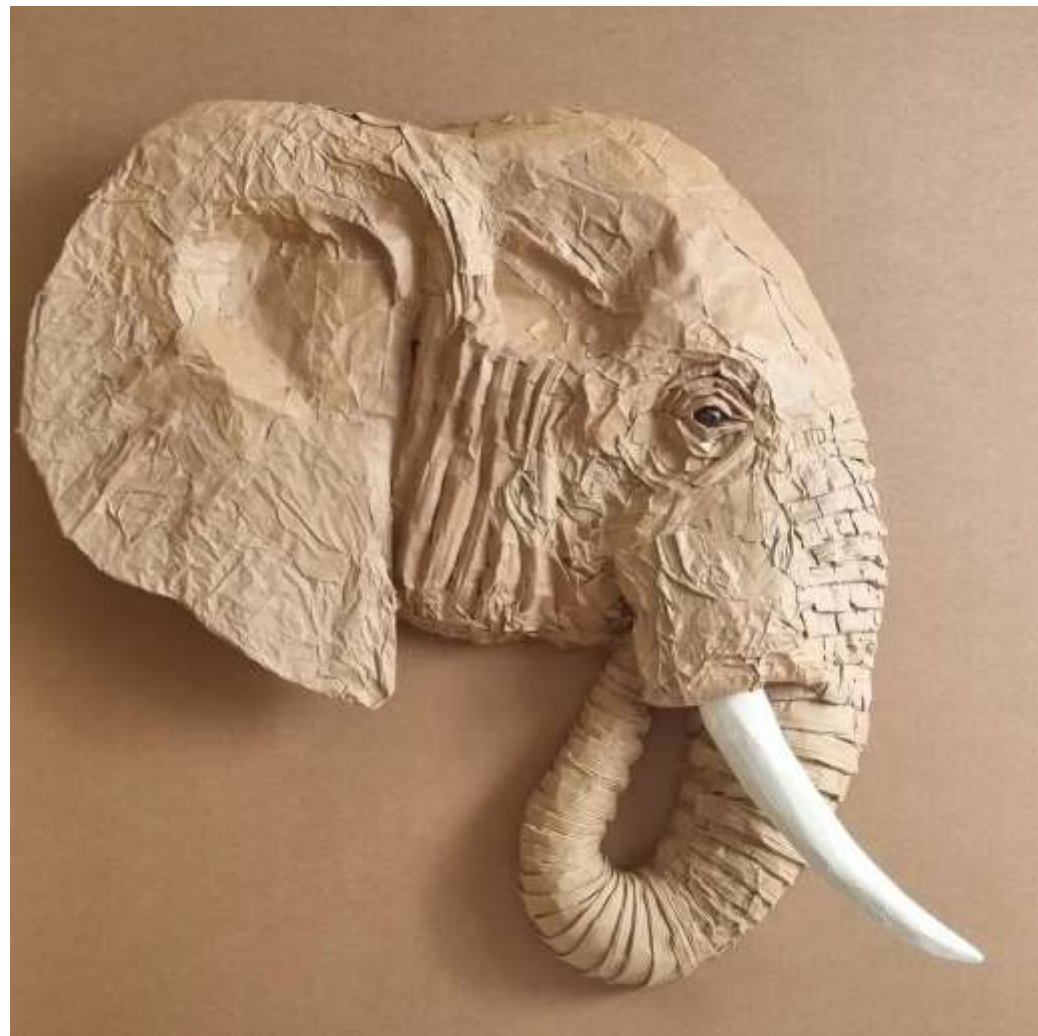




Josh Gluckstein

Since childhood, London-based artist [Josh Gluckstein](#) has been fascinated by the incredible diversity of our planet's wildlife and inspired to make sculptures of animals from found materials. He often uses discarded or recycled materials like clothing from thrift shops or wood from old furniture, and an important aspect of his practice is concern for the environment. "I have travelled through Asia, Latin America, and East Africa, and have been fortunate enough to have some incredible wildlife encounters," he says. "However, on my travels, even in the most remote locations, I was shocked by the huge amounts of plastic waste."



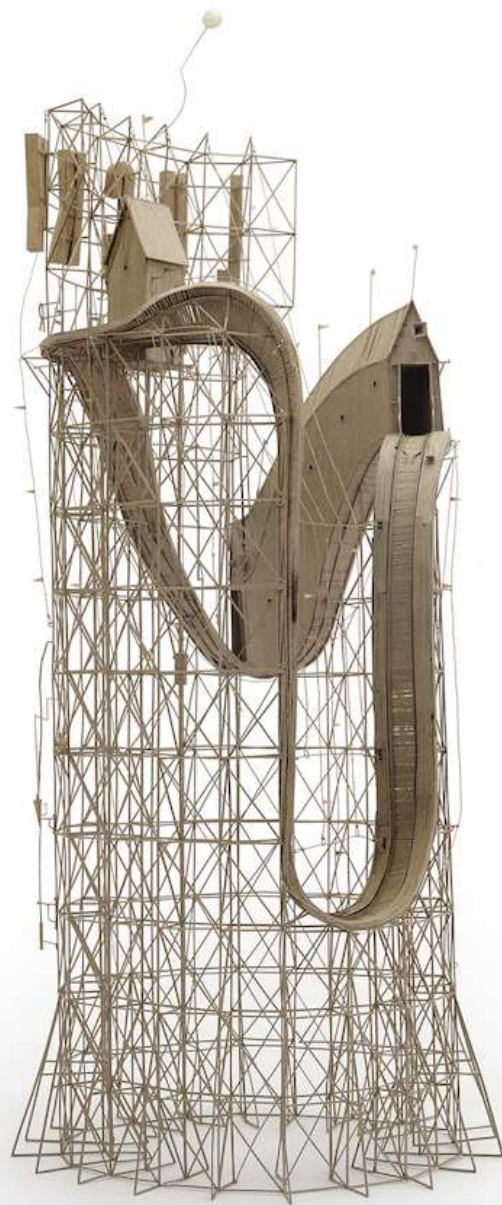


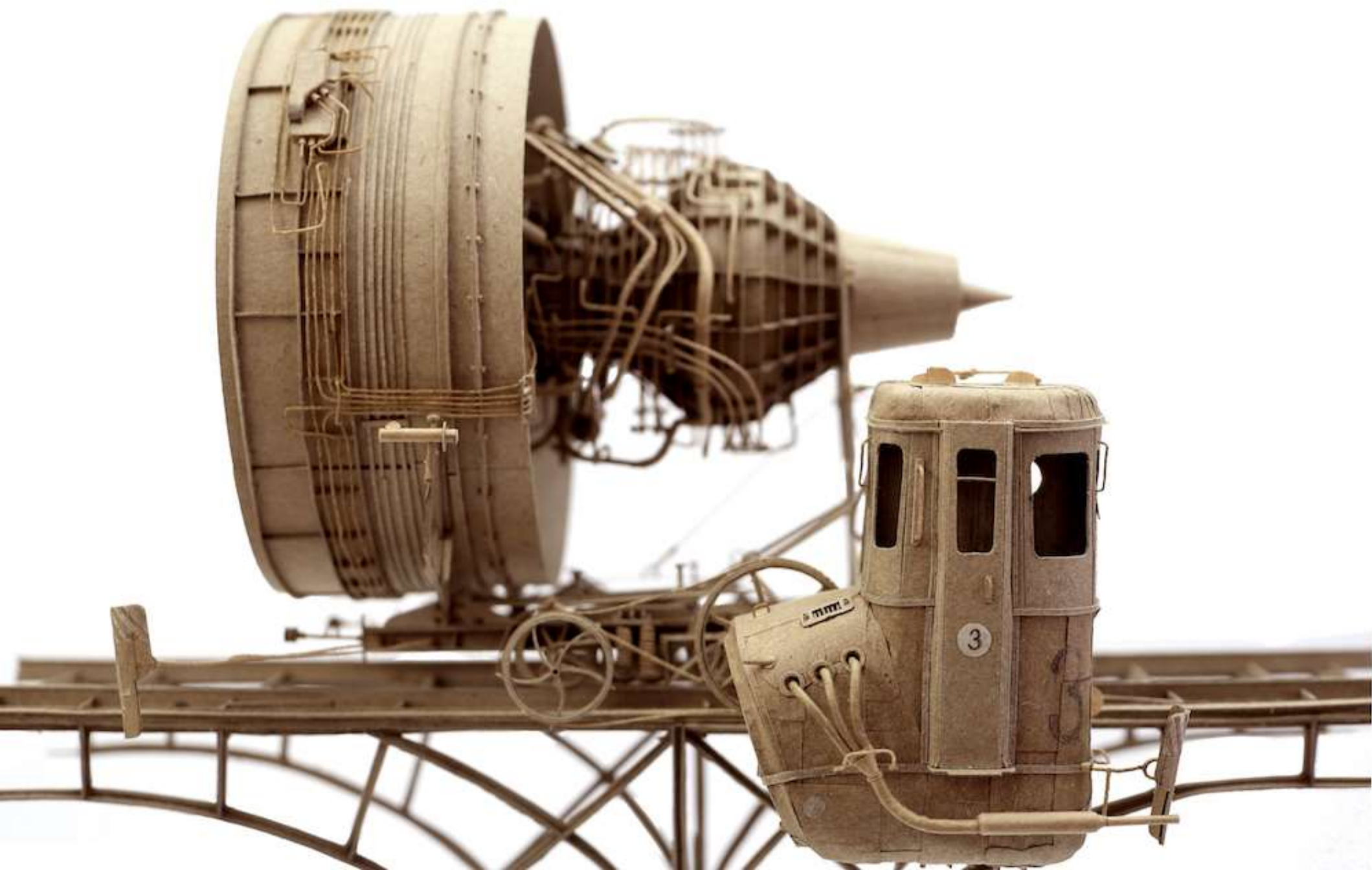
Daniel Agdag

Australian sculptor and filmmaker [Daniel Agdag](#) ([previously](#)) builds fictionalized architectural objects that could find their home in the sky, on land, or under the sea. The cardboard, timber, and hand-blown glass structures are inspired by the hidden mechanics found in everyday industrial forms, and consist of miniature models of fans, gears, and pumps. Inflated balloons like *The Southeasterly* carry small ship-like vessels, and a 2018 work titled *The Second State* looks like an early roller coaster model complete with billboard-like signage that spells out the word “LUCKY.”

<https://www.cartoonbrew.com/interviews/wonderful-world-cardboard-daniel-agdags-lost-property-office-155773.html>







Lucas Peixoto and many others

In an attempt it inspires the Portugal people and companies to make the best out of limited resources, [Oupas Design](#) has created a real size city using cardboard. Creating exquisite things doesn't need expensive materials, all you need is a pinch of creativity and some brilliant ideas that require less resources. The "Cardboardivity city" is one such project that gives the world a new and innovative perspective to look at things. This cardboard city is a joint effort of architect Lucas Peixoto, the graphic design team that includes Oupas, Eva Paula Castro and Inês de Freitas e Gonçalo Martins and the industrial design team that has designers like Verónica Rocha, Ana Rego, Fábio Duarte, Tiago Martins and Mariana Sadio.

The Cardboardivity city features buildings and objects made entirely of cardboard. You can see houses, trees, airplane, cars, telephone booths, clouds, huge coca-cola bottle, wind turbine etc, in this beautiful cardboard city. All of them are related to each one of the most important customers from Ivity, creating a magical atmosphere. What's the most striking part is that the sculptures are real size and fashioned using cardboard. Created in a 250m² "secret" room called "Empty Room", this installation did not require a lot of money because the cardboard boxes used to build them are mostly donated. Most of the cardboard boxes in this come from companies and some singulars.

Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan

- In [this 2018 video](#) from [Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki](#), artists [Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan](#) present [*Pillars to Posts: Project Another Country*](#), an assemblage of stacked cardboard ‘dream homes’ created with recycled boxes, skewers, tape and glue. The community-made installation evokes themes of migration, adaptation, belonging, memory, and identity.
- <https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/alfredo-and-isabel-aquilizan-cardboard-homes>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1JBzl3s_Qk&t=26s







Fire in the Cardboard City

When a city made entirely of cardboard catches fire, it's up to the local fire chief and his deputies to save the city and its citizens from impending doom.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfKcLAWFJTo&t=325s> (9 mins)

Cardboard City (LA)

reDiscover's Mission is to provide makers with the tools, resources, and confidence to engage in creative reuse and self-expression. We educate youth of all levels of expertise in transforming discarded materials into art, functional objects, and tools for learning. We support one another as hands-on creators, problem-solvers, community stakeholders, and stewards of the Earth.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaDf8D58IAg>
- <https://rediscovercenter.org/cardboard-city/>



♥ CARDBOARD CITY



Electra

Electra







Assignment Suggestions...

- Create a cardboard relief print.
- Incorporate cardboard into a collage.
- Create a painting using pastels or paint on cardboard.
- Create a cardboard mask or sculpture combining 2D and 3D elements.
- Let the cardboard show itself in your work.
- Put an artwork out in the rain—photograph the before, during and after.