

# Papier-mache Today

Pushing the limits of the medium

# 1967

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAmx6A-frpo>

# Melanie Bourlin

I am an artist and sculptor. After my baccalaureate in art and literature, I developed an interest in second hand materials and antiquities over several years. At the beginning of this millennium I returned to creativity and undertook training with La Fédération Compagnonnique d'Echirolles. I then studied the techniques of faux marble, fresco, trompe l'oeil etc.

I also experimented with other media such as wire, stone, paper, recycled materials etc. Since then I have developed an interpretation of animals, my bestiary, going beyond the restrictions of reality, joining human traits with animals. It is like having a garden in which being comes before having.

I am the owner of a gallery shop.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNh4KlKJSm4>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YX0v6D\\_TB0I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YX0v6D_TB0I)











# Mexican Paper Mache

Ramona García hosts workshops to teach others about the history of the traditional Mexican paper mache doll, which grew in popularity during the Mexican Revolution, and incorporates art therapy to promote mental health.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsJ07PJPe64> (dolls)

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

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

<https://www.pbs.org/video/traditional-mexican-paper-mache-works-display-mall-mijwdu/>

Linares

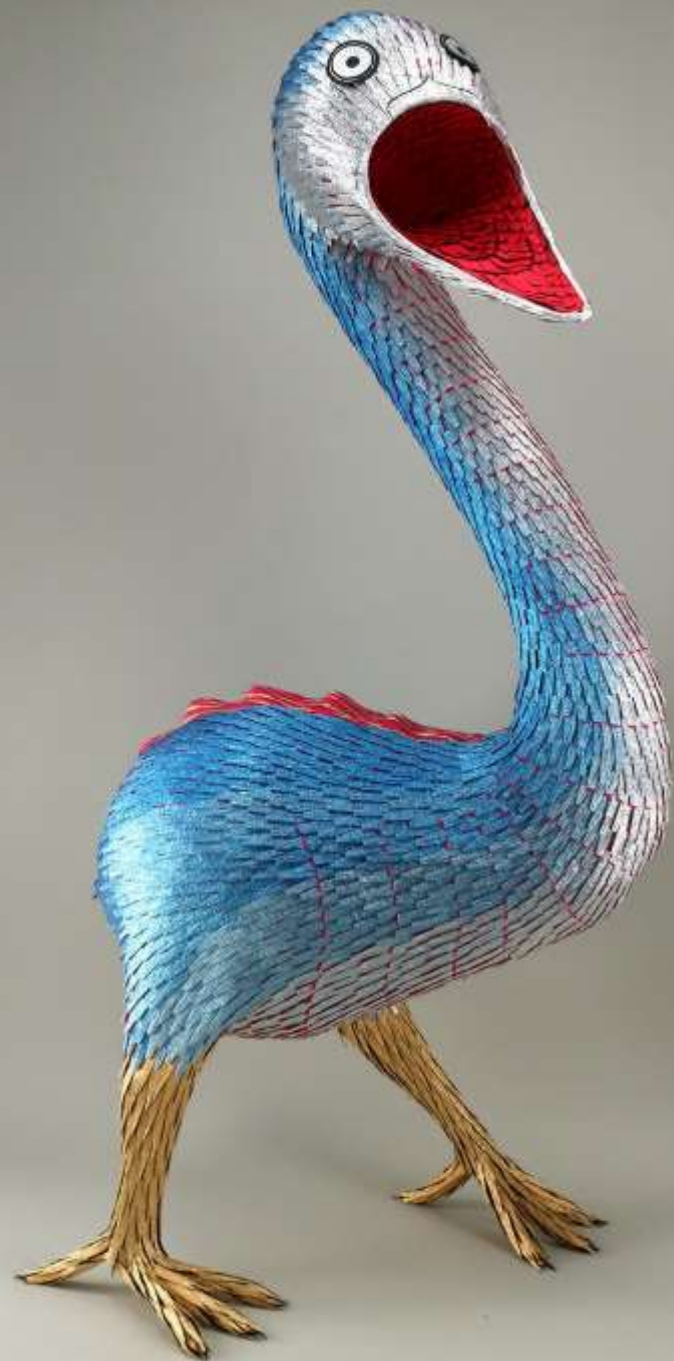
<https://www.pbs.org/video/traditional-mexican-paper-mache-works-display-mall-mijwdu/> (good)

# Roberto Benavidez

Roberto Benavidez is a figurative sculptor originally from South Texas specializing in the piñata form. After moving to Los Angeles, he rediscovered his passion for the visual arts and studied figure sculpting and bronze casting at Pasadena City College. Benavidez later switched to paper, a more accessible material than bronze, deciding to focus on the piñata technique, a familiar form from childhood. Benavidez plays with underlying themes of race, ephemerality, beauty and sin, layered with his identity as a mixed-race queer artist, with a focus on impeccable craftsmanship. Some of his otherworldly creatures could have stepped out of Hieronymus Bosch's 'The Garden of Earthly Delights.' One of Benavidez's 'Painting Piñatas' was on display in all LA Metro buses under the 'Through the Eyes of Artists' poster series. Another landscape was on view at LAX Terminal 1.5 in Craft in America's 'LA Scenes' exhibition.

- <https://www.craftinamerica.org/artist/roberto-benavidez>
- <https://www.pbs.org/video/roberto-benavidez-on-creating-pinatas-pinathkos-vrl7rs/>
- <https://robertobenavidez.com/birdr> (Images)











# Calder Kamin

**Artist, educator, and advocate**, Calder Kamin transforms trash into beautifully crafted creatures, and inspires others to be creative and courageous about the future.

- <https://www.craftinamerica.org/artist/calder-kamin>





# James Morrison

James Morrison uses papier-mâché to create ink drawings that explode into three dimensions. His small but complex sculptures show monochrome scenes of nature and animal behavior, which seem to have been cribbed from a naturalist's notebook. In *Colour Green* (2007), a bird hides behind a thicket of branches, while a big-eared predator lurks nearby, baring its teeth.

Using a traditional papier-mâché process to shape his sculptures, Morrison combines strips of paper with a starch-based glue, and develops dynamic forms through repeated layering. "It's such a simple process," he notes. "The glue is just starch and water cooked on the stove. It's very safe, even edible." He models and occasionally carves the paper to achieve the desired shape, then draws on its surface with ink, creating a sort of hybrid of sculpture and drawing. He admires paper's tactile qualities, the subtlety of its colors, the softness of its shadows, and the way papier-mâché seems to absorb light.





















# Lauren Clay

For Lauren Clay, paper's reputation as both functional and dull is the better part of its appeal. "I like the fact that paper is a neutral vessel," she says. "It's something that we use to present proposals and ideas." In her hands, paper covers walls in wild, swirling patterns, or it becomes entrancing, tubular sculptures.

To construct her solid sculptures, Clay uses a mixture of plaster and paper pulp; the latter gives the substance bulk and texture, and makes it easier to shape the forms by hand. Beginning in 2015, Clay began installing these sculptures atop vinyl wallpaper, adding a new use of paper to the mix. She creates the wallpaper using a mix of collage and traditional marbling techniques, which gives it the undulating appearance of variegated stone.

Marbled paper—commonly found in antique books—is typically dismissed as a decorative craft, but Clay makes it feel epic. She scans the marbled paper with a high-resolution printer and blows up the images many times their original size. What begins as a small paper collage becomes an immersive environment, with the original surface texture of the paper magnified and visible on the walls.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLQ1\\_YgHC88](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLQ1_YgHC88)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-3FgcR7hYk>















# Bernie Kaminski

For the love of **Papier-mâché**: Artist Bernie Kaminski on being playful & experimental with art. Most of us delved into the world of Papier-mâché as kids and never looked back, but for US artist Bernie Kaminski, it's a creative pursuit that stuck. "It's difficult to be precise with Papier-mâché.

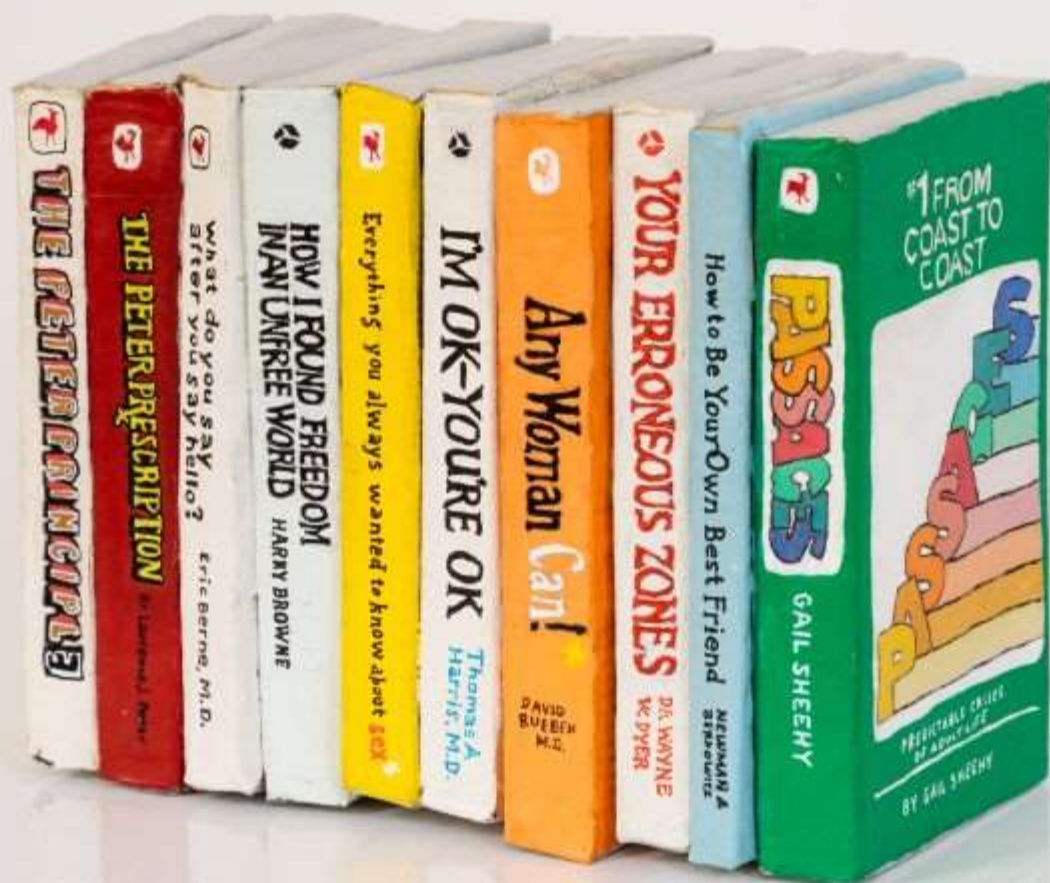
<https://www.creativeboom.com/inspiration/bernie-kaminski/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoQtBIPJn\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoQtBIPJn_4) (podcast)















# Agnes Scherer

Agnes Scherer is a visual artist and university professor of painting at the University Mozarteum Salzburg. With her elaborate operettas and narrative installations, she creates complex situations in which pictorial works elude immediate objectification and commodification and instead, through their interplay, demand bodily presence and an active mental assembling of the aesthetic experience as well as the levels of statement contained therein. She is also involved as a curator and author of art historical texts.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZFjQrXjFAo> (The Salty Testament)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ATdc7x4OQQ>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kIF3er4g4E>













# Katie Stout

Katie Stout is an American artist and designer based in New York City. Stout creates work that combines traditional craft techniques, the legacy of female-dominated decorative arts, and contemporary and conceptual art. Her work has been described as "naive pop."

This is a frame, like for a mirror," she said, pointing to a giant, coral-and-pink asymmetrical oval propped up on paint cans. "It's really weird. It's papier-mâché. I just was like, 'I think papier-mâché is great.' I was making these, like, paper pulp shelves, I guess, and then I started a papier-mâché treatment because I liked how painterly it looked." Beyond it was a bulbous desk, papered in pinks and mauves, with legs that coiled lazily at the ground, like frosting piped from a plastic bag.



















# Will Kurtz

**Brooklyn-based artist** Will Kurtz uses newspapers, masking tape, wood, wire, and everyday objects—such as cell phones, dog leashes, and pantyhose—as embellishments. From these materials, he creates life-sized figurative sculptures.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rfk6pHY71Pw>













# Olivia Bax

Olivia Bax (b. 1988) is **an exciting new talent in the field of contemporary sculpture**. Grounded in sculpture's histories and engaged in its futures, she spent her early twenties working as a studio assistant to Anthony Caro and after this working on the sculptor Charles Hewlings' archive.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfG8ggqkAU>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSFc-LgBz\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSFc-LgBz_o)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxgUUG-XZnA>









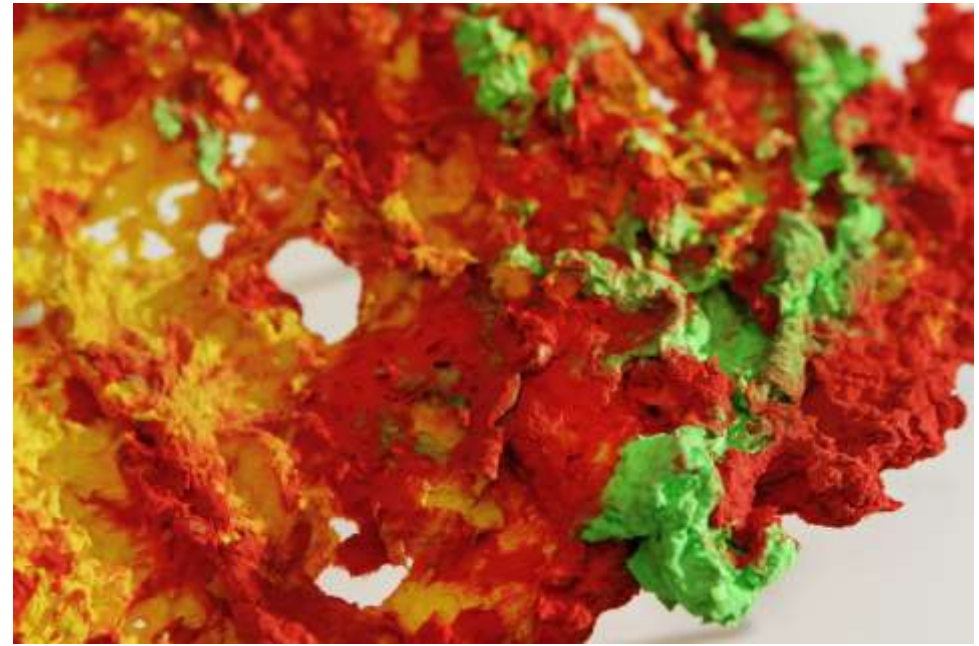


# Arlene Shechet

Arlene Shechet is an American sculptor known for her inventive, gravity-defying arrangements and experimental use of diverse materials. Critics describe her work as both technical and intuitive, hybrid and polymorphous, freely mixing surfaces, finishes, styles and references to create visual paradoxes

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYP-lfo\\_IBQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYP-lfo_IBQ)
- Pimento in Paper

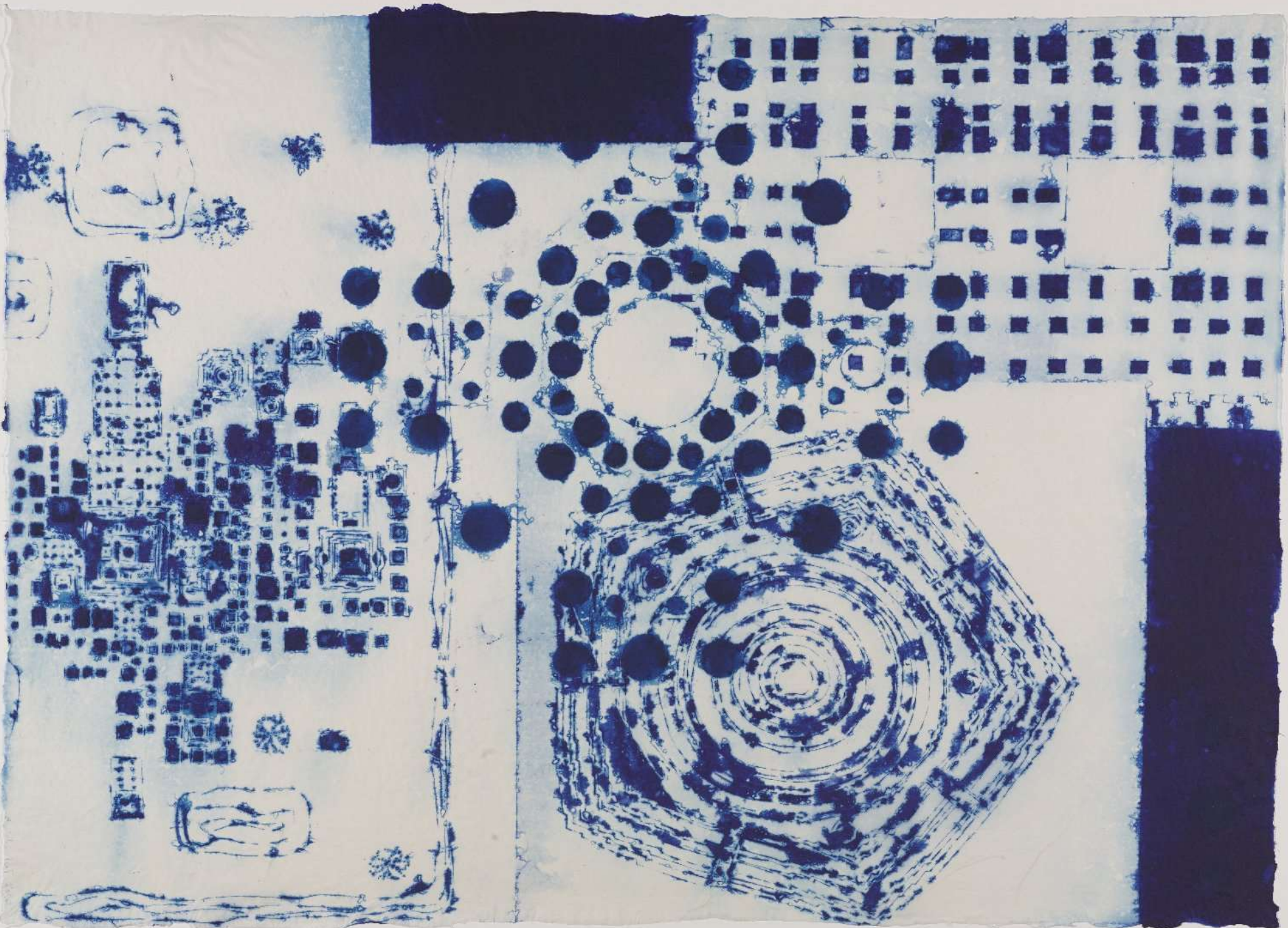




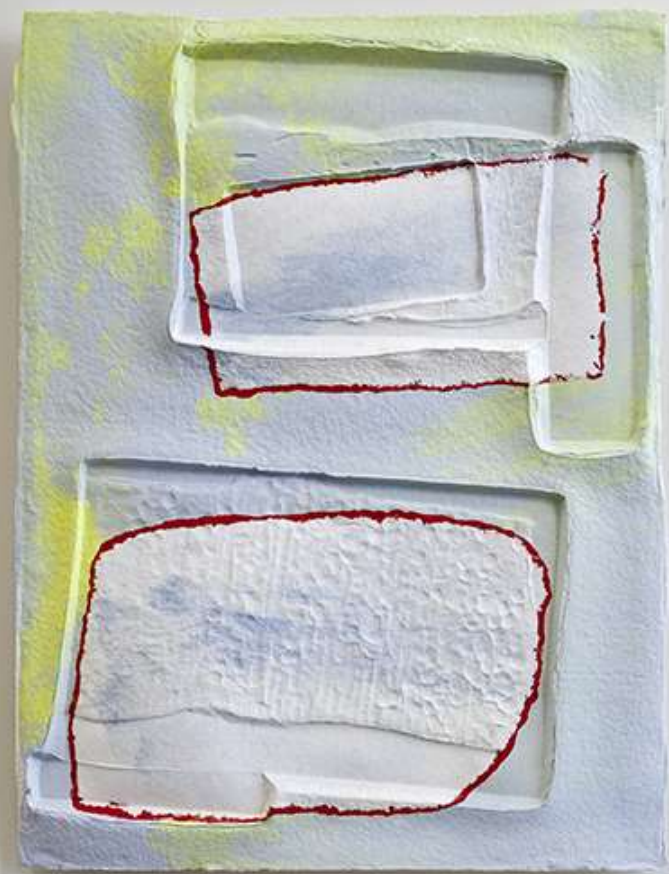














# Mary Merkel Hess

Mary Merkel-Hess **grew up in the farmlands of Iowa, where she still lives and works.** Studying both metalsmithing and fiber for her undergraduate degrees, Merkel-Hess received an MFA in metalsmithing from the University of Iowa under the tutelage of Professor Chunghi Choo.

- <https://www.craftinamerica.org/short/mary-merkel-hess-on-drawing-with-paper>







# Nancy Loreem Adams

Loorem Adams' conceptual sculptural basketry frequently references challenging contemporary issues with an intention to provoke reflection, emotional response, paradoxical thinking, and to create beauty. She is drawn to these aesthetic themes to express what haunts and engages her imagination. Loorem Adams specializes in random weave basketry techniques utilizing materials such as wood veneer, cane, reed, pigments, ink, dyes and lacquer. She employs these materials in uncommon applications with mixed-media components to develop narratives giving expression to concerns of the collective social psyche.





# Franz West

Franz West was an Austrian artist. He is best known for his unconventional objects and sculptures, installations and furniture work which often require an involvement of the audience.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceZ0grsxvQY>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84h\\_j2KaIMQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84h_j2KaIMQ)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84h\\_j2KaIMQ&t=155s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84h_j2KaIMQ&t=155s)



















# Miranda Mulder

[Miranda Mulder](#), a Dutch artist has been doing paper-mâché and turning pulp into various shapes of sculptures. But before we dig into that, what is exactly paper-mâché? It's a composite material consisting of paper pieces or pulp, sometimes reinforced with textiles, bound with an adhesive, such as glue, starch, or wallpaper paste.

- <https://www.allthingspaper.net/2022/12/paper-mache-mierpapier.html>





# Chiaozza

**Adam Frezza and Terri Chiao** are an American artist duo—also known as CHIAOZZA (pronounced “ch-ow-zah”)—whose work explores play and craft across a range of media, including painted sculpture, installation and public art .

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMIbuGQo-fl>
- <https://www.eternitystew.com/Paper-Plants>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Lm-xqxUq3u8>

















# Mark Gagnon

Painter and sculptor Mark Gagnon says his childhood passion for art was so strong that his mother—who kept an “immaculate” house—allocated an entire spare room for him to work on messier projects. “Needless to say, we were both happy with the decision!” he recalls.

After studying art at Ohio State University, Gagnon moved to New York to become a painter, later “stumbling” into a career in book illustration. But ultimately his love for that most messy of crafts—papier-mache—won out. Today, Gagnon works primarily in the discipline, creating elevated sculptures, wall reliefs, urns and vases, and even elaborate window displays for the likes of Bergdorf Goodman. “What I really enjoy about this medium is taking something lowbrow and turning it into a really beautiful object,” he says. “It gives it a kind of a street cred, and then, when I put my spin on it, it ends up with a finished feel and just a slight sense of humor.”

















# Liz Sexton

Rejecting anthropocentrism, [Liz Sexton](#) wants to break down the boundary between human and animal life. The Minneapolis-based artist creates large papier-mâché pieces of foxes, owls, and other wild animals designed to be worn by humans, creating a hybrid being that she often situates in non-natural environments, like a rat near the subway lines or a porcupine fish out of water.

Sexton began making her facial masks a few years ago after constructing a couple of Halloween costumes, although she's worked with the versatile paper material for many years. Made of brown paper, paste, and paper pulp, each piece takes a couple of weeks, if not months, to create. The artist tells Colossal that her "hope is that the viewer gains not only awareness of the animal but a sense of kinship and empathy."

- <https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2022/10/penny-thomson-kinetic-creatures/>



# Penny Thomson

A host of wild creatures inhabit the whimsical world of artist [Penny Thomson \(previously\)](#), who creates intricate, kinetic sculptures that fit in the palm of your hand. Joined in her Derbyshire studio by her daughter Briony, she works primarily with papier-mâché, which she began experimenting with when her children were still young. “Using pulp, laminated and household waste paper, and cardboard, I made a seven-foot giraffe and conducted a workshop in my son’s school, which involved all the pupils in making a 14-foot Diplodocus,” she says.

Since then, Thomson’s creations have scaled down quite a bit, but her interest in working with paper and recycled materials continues. After creating a diorama for illusionist Sam Drake’s [House of Magic](#), she became fascinated with automata and combined skills she acquired over her career to develop the mechanical miniatures. Briony adds, “That is why we say that a batch of two or three kinetic sculptures usually take between one week and 40 years to make!” Each expressive, miniature figure incorporates a mechanism with a small handle that sets it in motion, giving life to hungry chicks, impatient zebras, and joyous penguins.

<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2022/10/penny-thomson-kinetic-creatures/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rul9ZDsJW5I&t=29s>

# Assignment Suggestions...

- Make a 3d object from paper and glue of any sort. Decorate it.
- Create a paper sculpture inspired by your dog.
- Make something from egg cartons and cereal boxes.