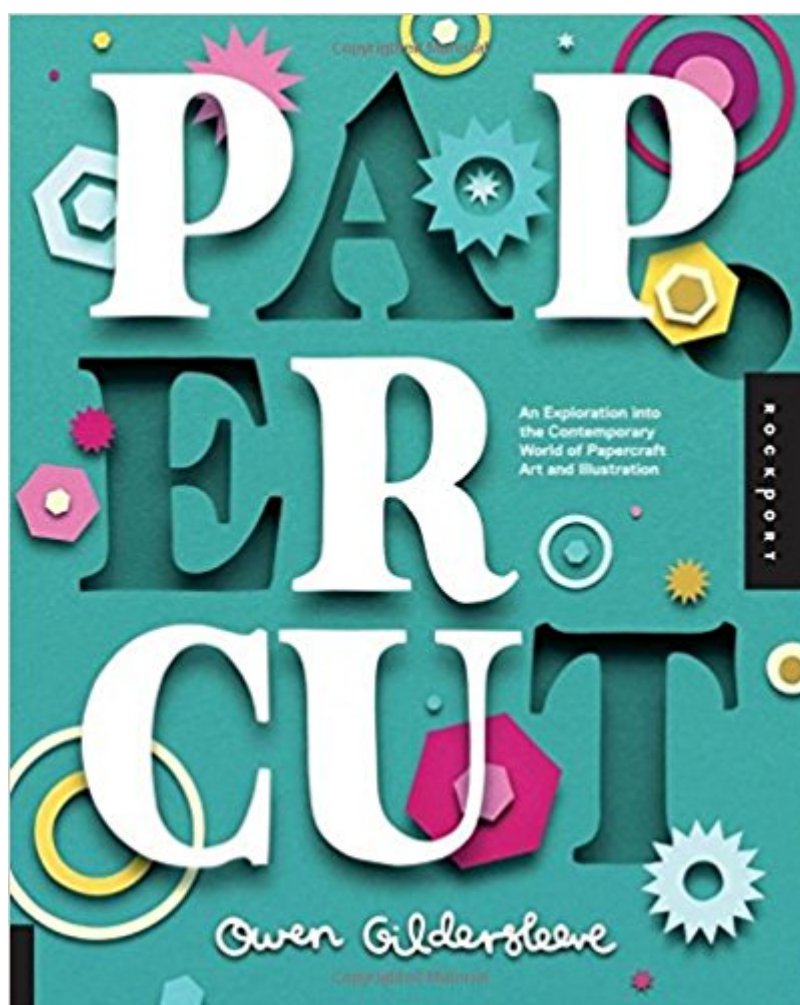


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# Paper Cut: An Exploration Into The Contemporary World Of Papercraft Art And Illustration



## Synopsis

More and more the design world is turning away from digitization and once again embracing the imperfections of handmade, craft-based practices. Written and collated by noted papercraft illustrator Owen Gildersleeve, Paper Cut offers a unique perspective into this burgeoning field of contemporary illustration. Featuring astonishing works from twenty-five of the world's top papercraft illustrators, this collection also contains in-depth interviews and rarely seen behind-the-scenes photography, which reveal the artists' motivations and working techniques. Contributors include Rob Ryan, Yulia Brodskaya, Jeff Nishinaka, Andersen M Studio, Chrissie Macdonald, and Kyle Bean. "Thanks to some great behind-the-scenes imagery of the paper artists at work, whether you're familiar with the work or not the book is endlessly illuminating. And with Chris Clarke of The Guardian overseeing the design, it's a fine printed experience from start to finish." - Rob Alderson, Editor-in-Chief - It'sNiceThat.com

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"You've seen a number of beautiful examples of paper art and whilst these are always lovely to look at, have you ever really thought about the inspirations and process behind the works? Paper Cut is a brand new book that dives into the world of 25 leading paper artists and we have a feeling you're going to love it." - CreativeBloq.com

Owen Gildersleeve is an illustrator and designer based in London. His work predominantly focuses

on papercraft illustration and over the years he has become highly respected in the field, working with a large array of international clients, as well as collaborating with many other respected artists. In 2009 Owen was awarded the Type Director's Club Award for his work with Fast Company Magazine. Then in 2011 he was awarded the Art Director's Club Young Guns award, which showcases the some of the world's best young talent in the fields of art, design and illustration.

Fascinating, creative paper art and interesting interviews with the artists who made them. These are not your run of the mill flat papercuts (remember those snowflakes we made as kids? those are crude examples of papercuts.) These are 3-D, intricate or bold, but all make visual statements.

A beautiful book of paper art. It is hard to believe some of this is actually paper. Not a book if you are looking at paper crafting - these are the pros.

Helpful and inspiring

Beautiful book with very creative ideas and tips.

Absolutely loved it! So inspiring!

I love looking at paper illustrations and crafting. There's that tactile feel that digital illustrations can never replicate. And then there's the surprise you get when you see how artists use paper in a way you do not expect. There are plenty of beautiful visual surprises in this book. Paper Cut is authored by Owen Gildersleeve who's a designer, set maker and papercraft illustrator. The book starts with a brief introduction to paper cutting before going to featuring the artists and their works. The focus is on the 25 papercraft artists that are featured. Each artist has a Q&A interview that talks about the type of work they do, their projects, inspiration, challenges, tools of trade (the type of paper), their process and even tips for beginners looking to enter this creative field. It's a good insight into their thought process, and how they manage their projects, especially on making sure the art direction matches what their clients have in mind. The examples are absolutely beautiful and eye catching. Many use paper as the main showcase to create the artwork while others use paper as ornaments. You can see paper being used to create collages, miniature models, dresses, stage sets, book illustrations and more. It's a joy to look at all the creative uses of paper. Even the colour schemes

picked are very well done. With paper, much of what is created is cut. The meticulous execution from idea to final result is impressive, sometimes awe-inspiring. Take for example the portrait drawings of Yulia Brodskya where each piece of paper is used to represent each wrinkle. Or Rob Ryan's illustrations which are drawn by cutting shapes out of a piece of paper. It's clear that a lot of time and effort are spent to create these artworks. It's admirable how these artists are so dedicated to their work. It's also quite fascinating to discover the different purposes that these artists use paper for, such as creating something that's wearable, or to complement another product, or to market a particular product. This is an inspiring and beautiful book for those into paper art and crafting. The list of artists included are: Andersen M Studio, Kyle Bean, Yulia Brodskaya, Bianca Chang, Le Creative, Sweatshop, Elise, Alexis Facca, Helen Friel, Mayuko Fujino, Marc Hagan-Guirey, Lobulo, Chrissie Macdonald, The Makerie, Stuart McLachlan, Motherbird, Helen Musselwhite, Hattie Newman, Jeff Nishinaka, Eiko Ojala, Ciara Phelan, Rob Ryan, Shotopop, Mandy Smith, Fideli Sundqvist, Zim & Zou, Owen Gildersleeve. (See more pictures of the book on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.)

The first time I thought about paper cutting as an art form was when I met the artist BÃ©atrice Coron. It was the mid-1990s and we were both living in NYC. One of the things she was doing at the time was selling her papercut illustrations to Lincoln Center to be used as illustrations for their playbills. The new(ish) book *Paper Cut* by Owen Gildersleeve (Rockport Publishers, 2014) features 25 artists who are utilizing this technique for stop motion animation, illustration, set design, graphic design, model making, advertising and art! It is really a treat to be introduced to so many new artists - I was only familiar with five of the 25 artists featured in the book. The majority are from Europe (Gildersleeve, an illustrator and designer himself, hails from London). The introduction includes an interesting history of the craft. I found this tradition particularly interesting: an early northern European tradition was to create cut-out letters called *bindebrevs* (binding letters) that were sent to loved ones on their birthdays or holidays. The *bindebrevs* contained a riddle (and the goal was that it would be unsolvable) and if the recipient couldn't solve the riddle by sundown, he or she was required to hold a feast. The rest of the book features a short introduction of each artist followed by a series of questions that Gildersleeve poses in an interview format. I like this approach, and through it we learn about the artists' training, inspiration, techniques, challenges, styles, and many artists are asked to offer up advice to those thinking of taking this up as a profession. Design duo Julie Wilkinson and Joyanna Horscroft run The Makerie. They met while studying graphic communications and work between London and Milan. They create lavish set pieces for international clients such as Gucci, Vogue and British Airways. Mandy Smith lives in Amsterdam and

creates magical sculptures for animation, fashion and theater. She has directed a short film, made models for the art department on Tim Burton's Frankenweenie, and worked with clients including Coca-Cola, Waterstones and Velvet. Jeff Nishinaka was born and still lives in Los Angeles. He's been sculpting with paper for more than 30 years, and his commercial portfolio includes work from Bloomingdale's, Visa and Paramount Pictures. Chiara Phelan is a freelance designer and illustrator working in London. She creates collage by combining vintage imagery with paper-cut patterns and three-dimensional shapes. There are many other artists featured in this book, which is chock full of gorgeous images. I love Gildersleeve's sentiment that paper cutting has become popular as an illustration medium because viewers are hungry for human interaction in our digital age (even if they are just looking at paper cuts made by real hands). Helen Hiebert Helen is the author of *Playing With Paper: Illuminating, Engineering, and Reimagining Paper Art* and *Playing With Pop-Ups: The Art of Dimensional, Moving Paper Designs*

This isn't one of the books that is for people looking for templates for crafts. This book instead focuses on 25 professional artists who use paper as their medium. It sets up each interview in a question/answer format. Each artist is different, it is amazing the different creations that are made only from paper. It is refreshing to see a medium that is not digital. The photos of the art are exquisite. It shows some amazingly talented people. As someone who has recently ventured into this medium I found it great to get inspiration. The artists do offer advice to anyone who would like to venture in that format.

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