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Ancient Japanese Art Transformed Into Contemporary Hand Carved Paper Sculpture



The Springfield Art Museum announces a new exhibit:
Between the Lines: The Katagami Sculpture of Jennifer Falck Linssen
18 September – 14 November 2010

Utilizing the ancient Japanese paper carving technique of *katagami*, American artist Jennifer Falck Linssen creates three-dimensional sculptures that explore the beauty of line and the delicacy of nature. Transforming light and space by ‘drawing’ with a knife, Linssen investigates patterns – both manmade and natural in order to “understand how pattern lends overall strength to an object such as the veining in plant leaves, the structure of a moth’s wing, or the crystal formation of snowflakes.”

Katagami are hand carved paper stencils that were traditionally used to pattern and dye kimonos through *katazome*. *Katazome* is a Japanese printing and dyeing process where rice-paste resist is applied through the stencil onto lengths of fabric; when dyed, the color does not adhere to the areas with rice paste allowing the pattern to show through.

Combining the ancient art of *katagami*-style paper carving with more traditional basketry and metalsmithing techniques, Linssen creates contemporary sculptures that transform the humble, two-dimensional stencil into a unique three-dimensional art form. This exhibit will showcase Linssen’s *katagami* sculptures including both pedestal and low relief wall pieces.

Born in Indiana, Linssen holds a degree in textile design and spent a number of years working as a jacquard textile designer. Linssen discovered *katagami* through her love of fabric design and patterns, which has become the basis of her contemporary sculptural work since 2003.

Linssen’s work has been exhibited in both national and international juried exhibits with solo exhibitions at the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles and the Longmont Museum in Longmont, Colorado. Her work has appeared in publications including the Los Angeles Times, Surface Design Journal, and Fiberarts. She is represented by del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles, browngrotta arts, Wilton, Connecticut and Cervini Haas Fine Art, Scottsdale, Arizona.

Linssen currently lives and works in Niwot, Colorado.

A preview reception, hosted by the Southwest Missouri Museum Associates, will be held on Friday, 17 September from 5:30 until 7:00 p.m. The public is invited.

Springfield Art Museum

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 9:00 – 5:00

Thursday: 9:00 – 8:00

Sunday: 1:00 – 5:00

Closed: Monday, City of Springfield, and National Holidays

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