

Yuka Petz

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Statement

My creative practice is centered around language and text. I am interested in language's structure and inability to express things. I explore letters abstracted or released from specific words. I see them as herds, moving through spaces, collecting and disbursing. I typically work with media associated with text on a page, such as graphite, letterpress printmaking, typography, etc. My process is tactile and physical, often working directly with letters cut from paper.

Across my work, I often deconstruct the component parts of a whole, and then engage those parts in different environments or modes of behavior to gain unique perspectives and new understanding.

I investigate where language hides when we can not access it, perhaps in deep, craggy caverns or clinging to the insides of arteries. Words get tangled, broken apart, and move across a space. Where do language and text go when imposed structures break down?

I feel this acutely on a personal level, where communication and conversation still feels exhausting and elusive after the earlier periods of lock-down in the pandemic. I also feel this on a broader, societal level. Ideas and content move quickly and it is difficult to harness both the uplifting and devastating impacts of words.

I regularly work directly with custom cut paper letters in my prints and drawings. I use the cut paper letters in pressure printing, which is a technique similar to collagraphs. The drawings are developed by using the negative space leftover from cutting out letters as stencils. I find meaning in using the leftover debris from one body of work as tools for another.

I am interested in using printmaking techniques in non-traditional ways. Rather than building up an image with different layers printed on top of each other, I experiment with how the ink that remains in the screen or on the block will directly affect the following monoprint. Each print builds directly on the residual ink and memory of the one that came before.

Artist Bio

Yuka Petz is an artist and designer with a background in book arts, graphic design, and printmaking. Her work has been exhibited internationally, and her artist's books and prints are in the collections of several museum, university, and public archives. She received an MFA in Book Arts/Printmaking from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and a BFA in Graphic Design from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Yuka is the writer and host of *Artist's Books Unshelved*, a video series that features books in the Cynthia Sears Artist's Book Collection at the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art. Alongside teaching virtual and in-person workshops around the country, she finds these roles critical to her pursuits of making book arts accessible to broad audiences.

Collaborating to create community through opportunities, events and resources is important to Yuka. She was an artist member of Antenna Gallery and a principal organizer of the Artist's Book Collection at Paper Machine. She also previously co-founded SIFT, an interdisciplinary arts organization in New Orleans, and served on the Board of Directors at Seattle Center for Book Arts.

Originally from the D.C. area, Yuka has made homes in New Orleans, Arikawa (a small Japanese island town off the coast of Nagasaki), Philadelphia, Seattle, and New York. She is currently based in Tacoma, WA.



Selected Exhibitions (*indicates solo exhibition)

- *Everyone Always Wants to Find Words*, 2022
GHC Gallery, Tacoma Community College, Gig Harbor, WA
- It Starts with the Book*, 2021
Antenna's Reading Room Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- *Transfer & Detach*, 2019
Antenna's Reading Room Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- Gina Grey & Yuka Petz*, 2017
The Gallery at Town Center, Shoreline, WA
- Word Play*, 2016
5 Press Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- Visiting Artist Show*, 2016
Kirschman Art Space, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, New Orleans, LA
- Buick on Fire*, 2014
Antenna Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- black white and things*, 2013
Carroll Gallery, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
- Vista Sans Wood Type Project*, 2012
Belfast Print Workshop, Belfast, Ireland
- Translationship*, 2012
Living Arts of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK
- Vista Sans Wood Type Project*, 2013
Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD
- Shin Jidai: Contemporary Japanese Book and Paper Arts*, 2012, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Minneapolis, MN
- NOLA NOW Part II: Abstraction In Louisiana*, 2012
Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA
- Wall Bound*, 2012
The Art Institute of Atlanta, Decatur, GA
- Chapter Two: MFA Book Arts/Printmaking Thesis Exhibition*, 2011
Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery, University of the Arts, Philadelphia PA
- Sequenced Fibers: Books on Fabric or Handmade Papers*, 2010, University of Nebraska at Omaha Art Gallery, University of Nebraska, Omaha NE
- The Paper Show*, 2010
Liberty Arts, Yreka CA
- Transatlantic*, 2010
F-Block Gallery, University of the West of England, Bristol, United Kingdom
- Read Me*, 2010
Kresge Gallery, Lyon College, Batesville AR

Paper Works: Japan & U.S. Collegiate International Exchange Exhibition, 2010
Joshibi Galleria Nike, Tokyo, Japan

The Art of the Book, 2008
Donna Seager Gallery, San Rafael, CA

National Book Arts Show, 2003
Community College of Southern Alabama, North Las Vegas, NV

Collections

- Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Cynthia Sears Artist Book Collection, Bainbridge Island, WA
- Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art, Barcelona, Spain
- Free Library of Philadelphia, Special Collections, Philadelphia PA
- Rhode Island School of Design, Fleet Library, Special Collections, Providence RI
- St. Lawrence University, Canton NY
- University of the Arts, Greenfield Library, Book Arts Collection, Philadelphia PA
- University of Washington, Collins Library, Seattle, WA
- Private collections

Education

- University of the Arts, Philadelphia PA
MFA, Book Arts/Printmaking, May 2011
- Rhode Island School of Design, Providence RI
BFA, Graphic Design 2002

Bibliography

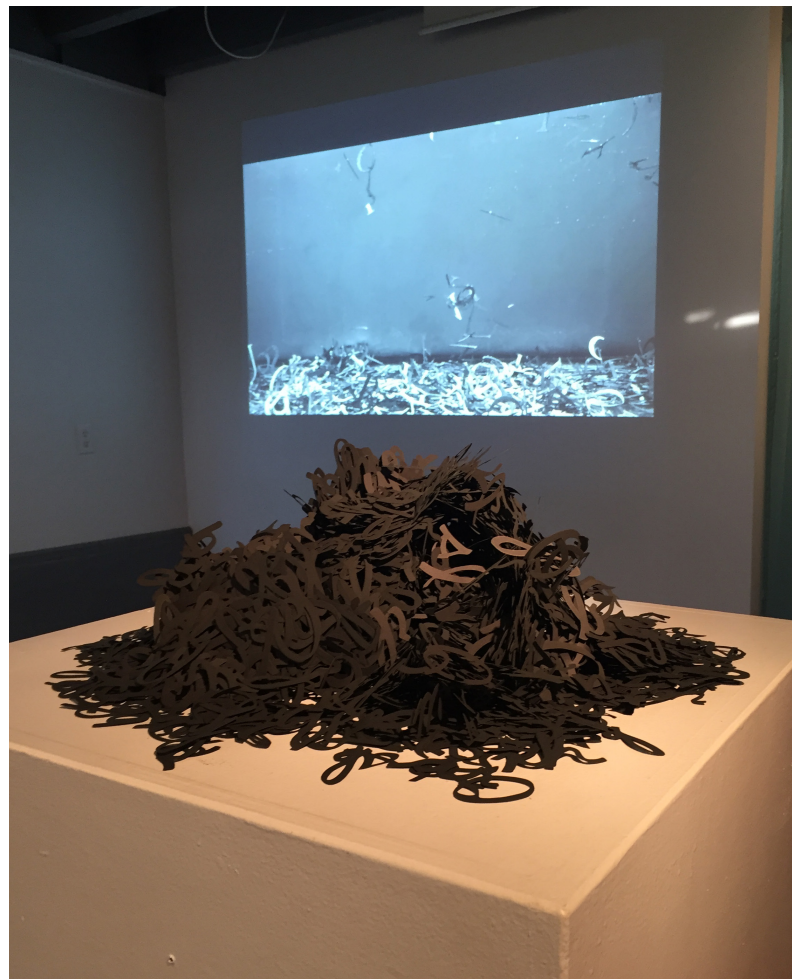
- Tingli, Mo. (2015). *Inspiration of Book*. Hong Kong: Artpower.
- Touch: The Vista Sans Wood Type Project Book*, Pointed Press Studio & Design is Good for You, 2013
- Hill, Will. (2010). *The Complete Typographer*. London: Thames and Hudson.



Swarm (Murmuration), 2022
Graphite on paper
24"x18"



Untitled, 2016
Embroidery on pressure print
12"x18"



Foreground:
Untitled, 2019
Laser cut paper
Dimensions variable

Background:
Accumulation/Distillation, 2017
Video (6:55 run time)