

Rickie Wolfe

Seattle, WA

Rickiewolfe.com @rickie.wolfe

ARTIST STATEMENT

My training as a printmaker influences my artwork across mediums. In print, one learns to work in multiples. I employ that discipline to my sculpture and installation. After forging circles and curvilinear pieces of metal, I weld from my palette of forms. I look for compositional interest, line width, and a certain emotional response. I know the metal skeleton is fully realized when I can recognize a balance between buoyancy and weight. Only then am I ready to incorporate fragile papers, wire, or enamel on copper.

My love of paper has led me to both expose and protect it. As I print, cut, and burn the paper, it becomes more fragile but less precious. The metal skeleton protects the paper while keeping it exposed.

The chrysalis and hive forms were first conceived after finding large dried paper wasp hives. They were fascinating and disturbing. At first I was scared, but my interest in the structures was profound. The hives assume the shape of their containment. This discovery spoke to me about finding a home and adaptability while connecting the past, to the future, and what is hidden.

My installation for BIMA is a smaller version of 'Bridges and Loops', an installation selected by Shunpike for a storefront window at Amazon. As I continue to discover new forms around me, I find beauty in the decay of abandoned elements in nature and also in the built world.



BIOGRAPHY

Rickie Wolfe is the Coordinator for the Print Studio at Pratt Fine Arts Center where she also teaches monoprint. She received her BFA from Cornish College of the Arts. Rickie works in metal, wire, paper, and enamel on copper.

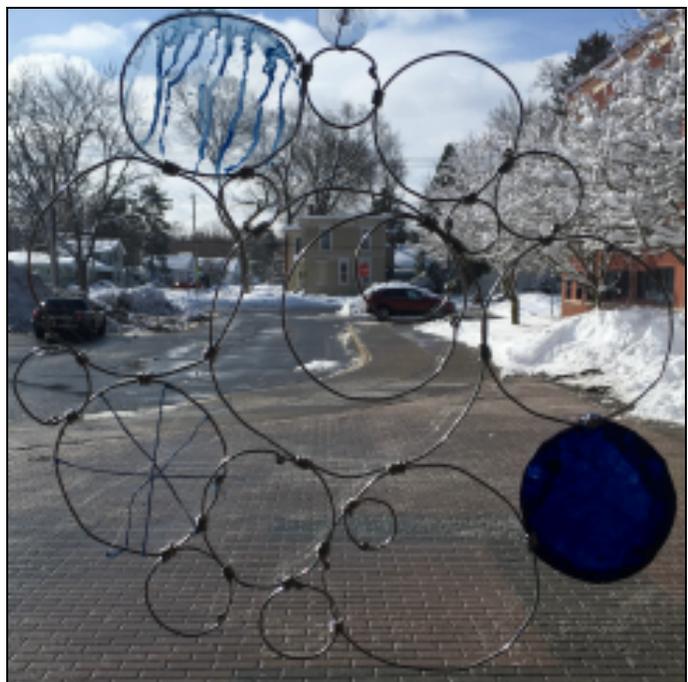
So far, 2023 has been full of surprises. A teaching-artist in Germany discovered Rickie's artwork online and contacted her to use her sculpture as a prompt for his middle school students. The project was to think about the sculpture and how they could be inspired to create their own pieces. For the final assignment, the students were instructed to work collaboratively on a large-scale installation.

This was not the first time Rickie had inspired teens. In 2018, she was delighted with the news of a high school art club project in Oneida, New York. Students there researched artists, and the art club chose her sculpture to emulate and inspire their own sculpture. "I can think of no greater honor than to inspire teenage artists." Their beautiful artwork can be seen on Instagram: @rickie.wolfe.

She is honored to be chosen to participate in the 'BIMA Spotlight Exhibition.' Later this summer, she will show new sculpture in the 'Exploded View' running concurrent with the Seattle Art Fair.



Student installation in Germany



Wire sculpture in Oneida, New York



Selected Solo and Two-Person Shows

2022 Juan Alonso Studio, Seattle, WA
2020 Front Room Gallery, Seattle, WA
2015 IMA Gallery, Line and Shadow, Seattle, WA
2012 IMA Gallery, Seattle, WA
2011 Kent City Hall, Kent, WA
2010 Multiples. Shift, Seattle, WA
2009 Under the Big Tent, University Street Window SAM Gallery, Seattle, WA
2009 Call and Respond, Shift, Seattle, WA
2008 Solo Alumni Show, Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA
2006 Shapes and Navigation, Joe Bar, Seattle, WA

Collections

Hilton Hotel, Cool Springs, TN
Madison Center-Schnitzer West, Seattle, WA
Max Hotel, Seattle, WA
Harrington-Smith, Aspen, CO
Silver Cloud Hotels, Bellevue, WA
Lundy Collection, Houston, TX
Cornish College of the Arts Print Collection, Seattle, WA
Mandalay Bay Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

Awards and Honors

2022 Shunpike Amazon Storefront, Seattle, WA
2021 Public Artist Roster-ARTSWA
2015 Shunpike Storefront Amazon, Seattle, WA
2010 Poncho Artist in Residence Scholarship, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Seattle, WA
2001 Scholarship for Welding, Anderson Ranch, Snowmass, CO