

## PEGGY SMITH-VENTURI

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### ARTICLES AND VIDEOS:

“Wrapped Boxes”: a video of a number of wrapped boxes being opened and revealed: <http://vimeo.com/352156672>

“Dystopian Warnings Wrapped Up in Pretty Boxes”: an article on the development of the wrapped box that includes a video interview with the artist in her studio:

<http://crosscut.com/2019/01/dystopian/warnings/wrapped/pretty/boxes>

“Open Book Tour”: a video of a talk given by the artist at BIMA. Includes the demonstration of a piece being assembled:

<http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dARsrr7A1fo>

### ARTIST’S STATEMENT:

This work evolved from involvement in the early environmental movement. Over the years I used art work to support and encourage changes necessary for protecting the earth. However, it has become more apparent that those changes were lacking and we find ourselves caught in a dire environmental crisis. Observing and deploring the multiple wounds that humans have inflicted on our natural world I was drawn, compulsively, to probing and questioning the culture lying beneath this ballooning crisis.

Making Japanese book boxes and playing with their structure, I realized that this form was just what I needed. This was a way to reveal or hide what might be difficult content and with these boxes I could place figures and other forms within their environment. It was now possible to explore my urging question – within our culture, what is our relationship to our natural environment?

It also became evident that the content must be revealed, like a book, on a scale that allows one to handle it, open it, and slowly discover it, providing, hopefully, an intimate experience. My hope is that that experience is not only

illuminating, but challenging as well. I was struck once by a comment made by a young teen girl who, looking at this work said, “Oh, I get it. Even though you’re small, you can still be powerful.” I sincerely hope this is true.

**EDUCATION:**

BFA in Sculpture – Center of Creative Studies – Detroit, Mi

Fine Art major – University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, Mi

Diploma in Fine Arts – Art School of the Society of Arts & Crafts – Detroit, Mi

Art major – Cass Technical High School – Detroit, Mi

**SELECTED EXHIBITIONS:**

Jefferson Museum of Art and History – Port Townsend, Wa - solo show

Bainbridge Island Museum of Art – Bainbridge Island, Wa - group shows

The Art Mine – Port Hadlock, Wa – solo show

Greg Kucera Gallery – Seattle, Wa – group show

Northwind Arts Center – Port Townsend, Wa – group show

WARM Gallery – Minneapolis, Mn – “Women’s Sensibilities: A National Juried Exhibition”

Detroit Institute of Arts - Detroit, Mi – Annual Exhibition for Michigan Artists - work included in five exhibitions.

**SELECTED PERMANENT COLLECTIONS:**

Bainbridge Island Museum of Art – Bainbridge Island, Wa

Detroit Institute of Art – Detroit, Mi