



Rachael Ashe

Rachael Ashe is a multidisciplinary artist based in Vancouver, British Columbia. Her recent commissions include the engineering of ten full-sized paper musical instruments for Giant Ant creative studio. Rachael has exhibited across Canada, the USA and the UK, and has been published in numerous books and magazines. She is based in Vancouver.

How did you get started in your practice?

I studied photography at Humber College and worked as a professional photographer for many years, including a position with the Textile Museum of Canada in Toronto where I photographed artifacts from their permanent collection. Around eleven years ago... I felt the need for more hands-on process and started exploring collage. This eventually led to working with old books to create mixed media sculpture, and then to paper cutting and installation work. For the past seven years I've been focused exclusively on creating work from cut paper.

What inspires you?

My partner Boris and I have been staying in Berlin for most of the summer, and I've been feeling very inspired by the change of scene. We did a short side-trip to Rotterdam and saw the Paper Biennale at the Museum in Rijswijk which was filled with inspiring pieces.

What's going on in the future for you?

In August I'll be starting a two month artist residency with MakerLabs in Vancouver, and getting

hands-on learning in things like laser cutting, CNC, electronics, etc. It's part of their on-going series of residencies for women makers. I'm really looking forward to it.

What work do you most enjoy doing?

I love the challenge of creating an installation from paper. I tend to make modular projects from multiple small individual pieces that combine into a larger whole. There is a lot of problem solving along the way, and I'm never quite sure how something will work out until it is installed on site. I often create pieces out of a desire to experiment, either with an unfamiliar material or a new idea.

What has been an influential experience for you?

Working at the Textile Museum of Canada as a photographer all those years ago. It was a hands-on education learning about textile work collected from around the world. I knew nothing about any of it before then, and it was mindblowing to see many of the spectacular items in the permanent collection. It instilled in me an appreciation and passion for textile design and techniques, and influences my work with paper to this day.

What work are you most proud of and why?

I completed a series of three pieces called The Scroll Series last year. They are paper installations hand-cut from seven foot long pieces of tyvek. I worked on them over three years, and they are the largest individual works I've created to date. They were each incredibly challenging to produce because my cut designs are typically small and intricate, but I wanted to explore working at a larger scale.

**Visit Rachael's website at
<http://rachaelashe.com/>.**

**This interview has been edited for
clarity and brevity.**