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2023 Friends of the Beach Museum of Art Gift Print



October 3, 2023 - April 6, 2024







The collective wood+paper+box is the creator of the 2023 Gift Print and the focus of this exhibition. Each wood+paper+box work is a handmade box containing several prints; each print encourages close looking and interaction through sight, touch, and sound. Experiencing a work involves opening a box, taking out a print, and often, sliding a print from an envelope or sleeve and unfolding or unrolling it.



wood+paper+box, (un)fold, 2017–2023, clamshell box, mokuhanga (Japanese woodblock), relief printing, pressure printing, digital print, pochoir, dimensions variable, photo: Alec Smith The Friends of the Beach Museum of Art commissions a limitededition print by a recognized Kansas artist for sale to Friends and the public each year. Kansas State University's Friends of Art started the gift print program in 1934.

The 2023 Gift Print box leans into the concept of interaction with an invitation to participate in the creative process. Its title, *Mise-en-Scène*, is a phrase used to refer to stage design and the arrangement of actors in a theatre or film production. A person interacting with the box can compose a "scene" using several prints, take a picture, and upload it to Instagram with the hashtag #woodpaperbox. This exhibition offers the public that experience of interacting with the Gift Print and engaging in a dialogue on social media with the collective and other viewers.

Gift prints are available to the public for purchase. Friends of the Beach Museum of Art at any level receive a 25% discount on the price. For more information about becoming a Friend or purchasing a gift print, please call 785-532-7718 or email beachart@ksu.edu.



wood+paper+box, AL>CA>KS, 2015–2016, clamshell box, mokuhanga (Japanese woodblock), letterpress, reductive linoleum, screen print, etching and color transfer, lithograph, vintage handkerchief, dimensions variable, photo: Brian Hawkins



Collective members Katie Baldwin, Mariko Jesse, and Yoonmi Nam met at an artist residency program in Japan in 2004, where they studied *mokuhanga*, traditional Japanese woodblock printing with water-based ink. Creating a work begins with each artist making one print and sending it to the others via postal service. All make their next work in response. Each cycle of exchange unfolds over months and repeats up to six times. Every year, they reunite for a "residency" at one of their homes to collaborate on a print or put finishing touches to a box.

Cover and left: wood+paper+box, *Mise-en-Scène* (2023 Beach Museum of Art Gift Print), 2020–2022, clamshell box, *mokuhanga* (Japanese woodblock), oil-based woodblock, letterpress, lithograph, and inkjet, dimensions variable, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, photo: Alec Smith



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Mariko Jesse, wpb meeting sketch, 7 July 2020, 2020, ink, 3 x 5 in., courtesy of the artist

What makes this collective stand out is its commitment to foregrounding creativity founded on friendship and collaboration. I find their mutual respect to be a breath of fresh air within a mainstream art world that often elevates individual artists.



BEACH MUSEUM OF ART

FREE admission and parking 701 Beach Lane, Manhattan, KS 66506

785-532-7718 | *beach.k-state.edu* Tues., Wed., Fri. 10-5 | Thurs. 10-8 | Sat. 11-4