

August 2, 2005

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Woman Made Gallery – 773-489-8900

## Group and Invitational Exhibitions at Woman Made

### The Nature of Paper

September 2 – 29, 2005

**Opening Reception:  
September 2 from 6-9pm**

The Nature of Paper exhibition features artworks by thirty-four artists from across the United States and Canada.

Entries were juried by Chicago artist and educator, Melissa Jay Craig, who holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago where she was a Merit Scholar and an Anna Louise Raymond Fellow. Melissa Jay Craig is the fulltime teaching Artist-In-Residence at the Columbia College Chicago Center for Book and Paper Arts. She has been teaching in the Interdisciplinary Book and Paper Arts MFA degree program since 1996.



In her juror statement Ms. Craig comments: "I enjoyed the opportunity to view the many excellent entries, regardless of the source of the paper. I chose what I felt were the best examples of the range of work before me: collage, mixed media, sculpture, installation and many, many artists' books. The works that is included appealed to me for their wit, resonance or beauty and their well-considered conception and execution. I ended up wishing I had a much larger gallery to fill."

The exhibition includes creations by women artists working in a range of paper-based media from traditional to contemporary which make specific use of the nature of paper as a medium rather than as a support material or substrate.

**The exhibition opens on September 2<sup>nd</sup> with an artist reception from 6 - 9 pm at WMG.**

**Exhibiting Artists:** Barbara Barnes Allen, Sibylla Benatova, Ilse Bolle, Nichol Brinkman, Rose Camastro-Pritchett, Rose Ann Chasman, Susanne Clawson, Jenn Dierdorf, Eileen Downes, April Flanders, Mary Gaynier, Michèle Guichard, Karen Hanmer, Barbara Harman, Laura C. Hewitt, Lois James, Kathy Kadlubowski, Linda Lemon, Beili Liu, Crystal McCann, Anne Q. McKeown, Monika Meler, Susan Metcalf, Betsy R. Miraglia, Hanne Niederhausen, Leah Oates, Linnea Paskow, Anna Plesset, Elizabeth Rhoads Read, Sally Rose, Lisa Switalski, Jennifer Weigel, Ellie Winberg, Jia Zhang

(Image: 'Powder Circles' wax paper and flour, 6' diameter by Beili Liu)

### The Open Book Peace Project (OBPP)

Simultaneously with the Nature of Paper group exhibition will be a display of a 12' interactive traveling book project exploring issues of peace. Initiated by Catherine Trzybinski the project invites individuals to express their idea about peace, through drawing and writing, hand papermaking and bookmaking. Since the inception of OBPP in 2003, over 1000 individuals have contributed a page to the book and it has grown to be over two football fields in length. The pages contain writings in English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Japanese, German and many more languages, as well as illustrations in pen and ink, pencil and brush and hand carved stamps. Be a co-creator and create your own page while chapters of the Peace Book are on display. For more information visit [www.openbookpeaceproject.org](http://www.openbookpeaceproject.org)

## Artisan Gallery at Woman Made

### Contents Include: Paper

Our Artisan Gallery was established in spring 2005 in replacement of our gift shop. Consistent with WMG's mission, the Artisan Gallery offers expanded exhibiting, marketing and selling opportunities. We want to showcase the many fine women artists and artisans that are working in traditional and non-traditional craft disciplines.

Coinciding with the Nature of Paper juried exhibition in the Woman Made main gallery we are featuring "Contents Include: Paper" with works by artist Elizabeth Rhoads Read from September 2 – 29, 2006.

## Invitational

### Paperwork

In addition to the group exhibitions with diverse artworks by women artists and artisans, WMG invited juror and artist, Melissa Jay Craig and Kerri Cushman, Yoonshin Park, Kelly Jane Rider and Jen Thomas to share the Gallery's smaller exhibition area to show their diverse paper-based constructions and designs.

Melissa Jay Craig's interesting work, '...a Memoir' as pictured here, is composed on the outside of cast and hand shaped unbeaten kozo with walnut dye and acrylic stain. The intricate sculpture includes text which is on internally sized semi-translucent abaca; sumi ink calligraphy overdyed with acrylic stain, methylcellulose and walnut dye; sewn to flax-wrapped hemp cords with inserts of shaped walnut dyed kozo at tail, and inserts of shaped walnut dyed and acrylic stained kozo with tiny attached acrylic stained abaca pages with sepia calligraphy at head; various linen threads and cords.



(Image: '...a Memoir' mixed media, handmade paper, 72 x 14 x 26" by Melissa Jay Craig)

**Dates: September 2 - 29, 2005**

Opening Reception: Friday, September 2, 6-9 pm

#### Where:

Woman Made Gallery

2418 W. Bloomingdale, Chicago, IL 60647

(Two blocks north of North Ave., ½ block west of Western Ave.)

Website: <http://www.womanmade.org>

#### Gallery Hours

Wed-Fri noon-7pm / Sat-Sun noon-4pm

#### About Woman Made Gallery

Woman Made Gallery is a tax-exempt, not for profit organization founded in 1992. Its goal is to support women in the arts by providing opportunities, awareness, and advocacy. It specifically accomplishes this through monthly thematic exhibitions which raise public awareness and recognition of women's cultural contributions.