

FlinnGallery
GREENWICH LIBRARY

material WORLD

September 10 - October 28, 2020

Jennifer Davies: *Material World* Artist Statement

I have always been attracted to all forms of fiber, especially paper. Creating with paper feels like dancing with a partner, the material itself leading me through a series of new steps. I start with an idea but give myself over to a process that is intuitive, and at the best of times, playful.

In the past, as a mark maker, I made many drawings to understand natural form. A pencil and paper were my constant companions. I now use this vocabulary of texture and lines in a more abstract way to make work that suggests images from nature – foam sinking into sand, delicate spider webs, and phases of the moon, all of which provide me sources for form and pattern. Along with these references I want my work to have a strong physical presence that expands into multiple associations.

I make my own Japanese paper, called kozo. After the long process of cooking, cleaning, and beating the mulberry branches by hand, a fluffy long fibered pulp results. I dip weavings into the slurry of pulp and water to make lacy nets, or use it more traditionally for sheet forming.

Through exposure to Asian art, I have gravitated toward Japanese fiber traditions, with its emphasis on strong materiality and natural pigments such as Kakashibu and Indigo. My approach is often that of collage as I layer opaque or translucent papers. Paper can be treated like cloth and I often use stitching, wrapping, weaving and other textile techniques to combine my pieces. I like to think I employ the concerns of fine art - color, surface, composition etc. in the context of craft to make an object that draws one in with the warmth of its texture and the pleasure taken in its formation.

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