



Studio 238: *On the Square*, The Works of TJ Mabrey

Where: Studio 238
The Harwood Museum of Art
238 Ledoux Street
Taos, New Mexico

When: October 4 – 30, 2017
Opening Reception: October 6, 4:00 – 7:00pm

Studio 238 is proud to introduce the second series of rotating installations with local artist, TJ Mabrey. Primarily recognized as a sculptor in stone, paper has been her secondary medium of choice going back to the late 1970s. Her exploration of embossed paper and cellulose pulp is the focus of her current work and for this exhibition opening October 4th, concurrent with the greater museum's Fall Exhibition opening celebrating the works of Ron Davis, Paul Pascarella, Jamie Porter Lara, and Sam Scott.

TJ Mabrey's life and work is far-reaching. After one year in Central America she returned to Dallas, Texas where TJ studied with Master Sculptor Octavio Medellin for four years. In 1980 she established a carving studio in Pietrasanta, Italy where she worked for 2-3 months annually. In 1986 her husband's work in the U.S. Foreign Service took them to Singapore where TJ worked and exhibited before they settled in Cairo, Egypt in 1988. During her four years in Cairo she worked in a stone studio near the pyramids and organized four exhibits of her work.

During these years, Mabrey continued her annual trip to Italy, even after returning to the US in 1992 when she and her husband established their home and Mabrey's studio in Central Texas. In 2011 the time came to close her Italian studio and move, with her husband, to Taos, New Mexico, USA. She opened Studio Santiago in Taos, New Mexico in May 2014. Mabrey's designs and sculptures are prominent in private collections in the United States, Canada, The Netherlands, Egypt, Lebanon, Italy, and the Orient.

Mabrey has limited the direction of these new experiments in paper by her use, and consideration, of the square. The foundation of the work to be shown is embossed paper, which is done on a large etching press, or by hand, pressing pulp through a template. The resulting pieces of paper and pulp are then incised, folded, manipulated, repeated, possibly painted, and made available for an endless modular installation.

This repetition of process is used to call attention to the variation within the sameness of each piece of paper. Repetition is found in patterns of nature. It is intrinsic to science, where repetition is used to verify a hypothesis. It is found in the structure of DNA and the study of genetics. Repetition in art can be a useful tool to express abstracted ideas in nature and science. Mabrey is exploring the concept through paper.

The opening reception on October 6th is free and open to the public.
For more information, contact the Harwood Museum of Art at 575.758.9826 x 109 or go to harwoodmuseum.org.