

ART BY
DEBORAH
PERLMAN

*Three-dimensional collage, inviting you
to travel through spaces of mystery,
questions, and the unknown.*

START HERE



ARTIST BIO

South Florida artist Deborah Perlman is a graduate of Boston University (BFA, sculpture) and Cranbrook Academy of Art (MFA, sculpture). After graduate school, Perlman ventured into communications, enriching her creativity through travel and special assignments. Since dedicating herself to art full time, she has been featured in several art publications and her work has appeared in exhibitions nationwide, including three solo exhibitions from 2023 – 2024. Her work is held in private collections, and she is a member of regional and national professional artist organizations.

Perlman creates abstract geometric 3-D collage by transforming flat shapes into elevated forms and spaces that add depth, texture, and shadows. She cuts, scores, and folds paper to create the forms, then combines them with materials like photographs, wood, and metal. Juxtaposing these forms, she highlights their points of contact and the shadows they cast, enhancing the intention for each piece.

Perlman finds inspiration from the form, structure and styles of African sculpture; the Constructivism, Geometric Abstraction, and Cubism art movements; the work of Louise Nevelson; the 'illogical perspective' of Giorgio de Chirico and M.C. Escher; Joseph Cornell's shadow boxes; and Frank Stella's metal reliefs, among many others. Her concerns for the environment, reactions to global conflicts, and personal life experiences contribute to the subject matter she addresses.





ARTIST STATEMENT

Enter a World Somewhere Between Real and Imagined

"My artwork transforms collage into three-dimensional sculptures, converting flat shapes into elevated forms and spaces that add depth, texture and shadows.

Using paper in rich tones, I cut, score and fold to create these forms, then combine them with photographs, wood, fabric, metal and other materials. The juxtaposition of these elements – casting shadows and highlighting contact points – enhances the intention of each piece.

The forms and spaces in my work exist somewhere between the real and the imagined. Each piece invites you to travel through doorways, walkways, ramps, and passages, leading you to spaces filled with mystery, questions, and the unknown. These paths may evoke feelings of peace, shelter, joy or wonder, and give you new insights into your perceptions.

My works are visual metaphors for issues that impact me, from environmental concerns and global conflicts to the quest for inner peace. I immerse myself in this 'almost-but-not-quite-real' world and invite you to join me.

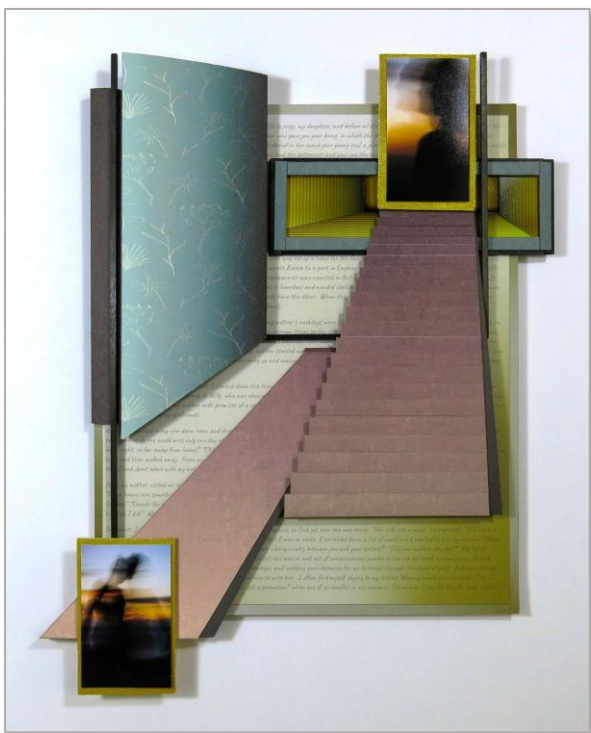
Walk in and ask yourself: What is it? Where is it? What do I see and feel? And ultimately, do I find myself in it, or not?

Through these questions, I aim to foster deeper connections and understanding, encouraging introspection and the recognition of our shared experiences."

"This is the Book We Never Wrote" Series

About two decades ago, I began writing a collection of personal essays reflecting on life experiences, relationships, and milestones, with the intention of publishing them someday. When my son, Ari, learned of this project, he enthusiastically offered to illustrate each essay. We both embraced the idea wholeheartedly—Ari was an extraordinary artist, overflowing with spontaneity and boundless creativity. However, life had other plans, and Ari passed away in 2020.

Today, I bring our project to life through a 'book' of artworks. Each piece in this series represents one of my essays, with carefully selected excerpts subtly woven into the background. The 'chapters' of this book delve into themes of forgiveness, love, friendship, and healing. Throughout this creative journey, I have felt Ari's presence cheering me on. These artworks visually convey the essence of my essays as well as a deeper narrative of resilience and growth in the face of unimaginable loss.



She Took the Bitterness and Gave Me the Honey

2024

17.5"H x 16.25"W x 1.5"D (framed)

Mixed Media - paper, photographs, wood, wire mesh



On Time

2024

17.5"H x 16.25"W x 1.5"D (framed)

Mixed Media - paper, photographs, wood, metal

"Screen Shot" Series

The pandemic transformed the way I communicate, attending more virtual meetings with friends, family, and colleagues. My "Screen Shot" series depicts quick takes of people and the spaces behind them, seen during these virtual gatherings. The silhouette emphasizes the dichotomy between safeguarding their privacy while getting an intimate glimpse into their personal lives.

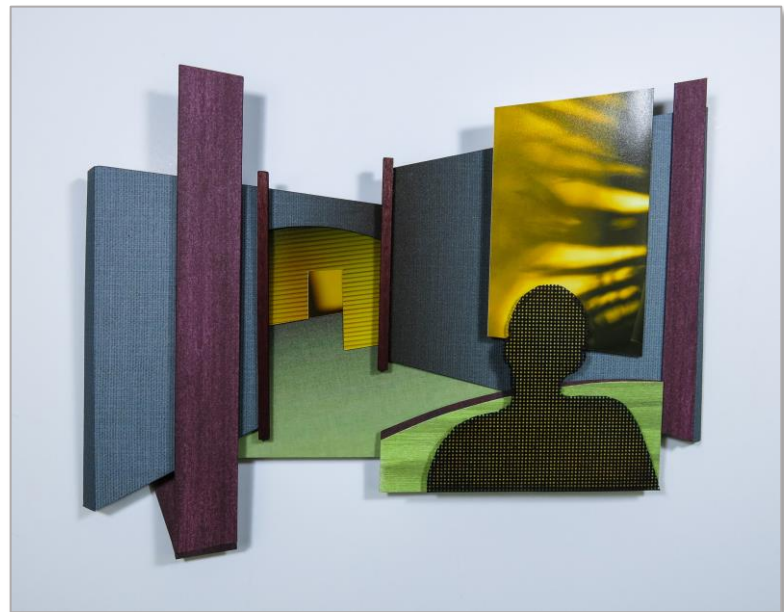


Screen Shot #5

2023

12.5"H x 13.75"W x 1.5"D (framed)

Mixed Media – paper, photographs, fabric



Screen Shot #12

2023

13.25"H x 16"W x 1.5"D (framed)

Paper, wood, photograph

“A World I No Longer Know” Series

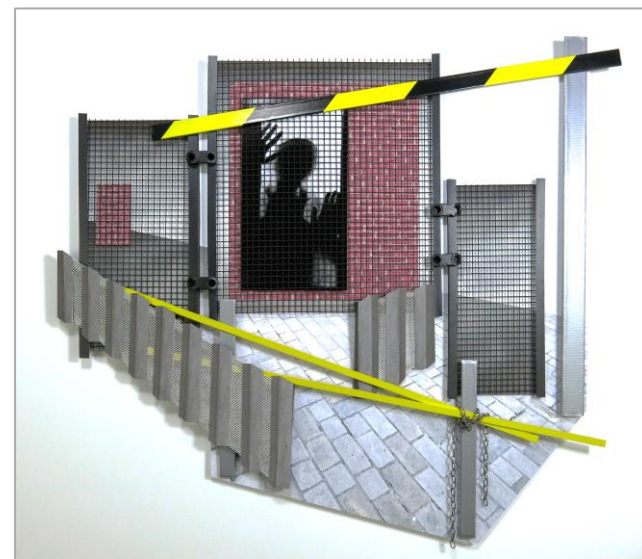
I live in a world I no longer know. Borders closed, books banned, civil rights in reverse, women’s choices diminished, diversity and inclusivity battered. In these artworks, people are depicted in silhouette—anonymous figures without specific identities, names, or faces. Is this how they appear to those who are shutting the door on their fundamental rights? These spaces of suppression and containment leave little room for the empathy, acceptance, and compassion I once knew.



Restricted
2023
23.25"H x 15.25"W x 1.5"D (framed)
Mixed Media - paper, wood, plastic,
wire mesh, photographs, metal



Migrant
2023
18"H x 23"W x 1.5"D (framed)
Mixed Media - paper, wood, plastic,
wire mesh, photographs



Denied
2023
20.50"H x 21"W x 1.5"D (framed)
Mixed Media - paper, wood, wire mesh, tape
photograph, metal

“Nature-Tecture” Series

When I began this series, the first piece included only a few photos of nature. But as I continued, I noticed that more and more plants were making their way into my compositions. In Nature-Tecture #3, #4 and #5 the plants are bursting forth from behind the man-made forms, asking to be noticed. It was as if the plants were telling me, “We are here, we are important, and we are thriving.” This realization became the heart of the series, and I hope it inspires the viewer to reflect on the delicate balance between our built environments and the natural world.

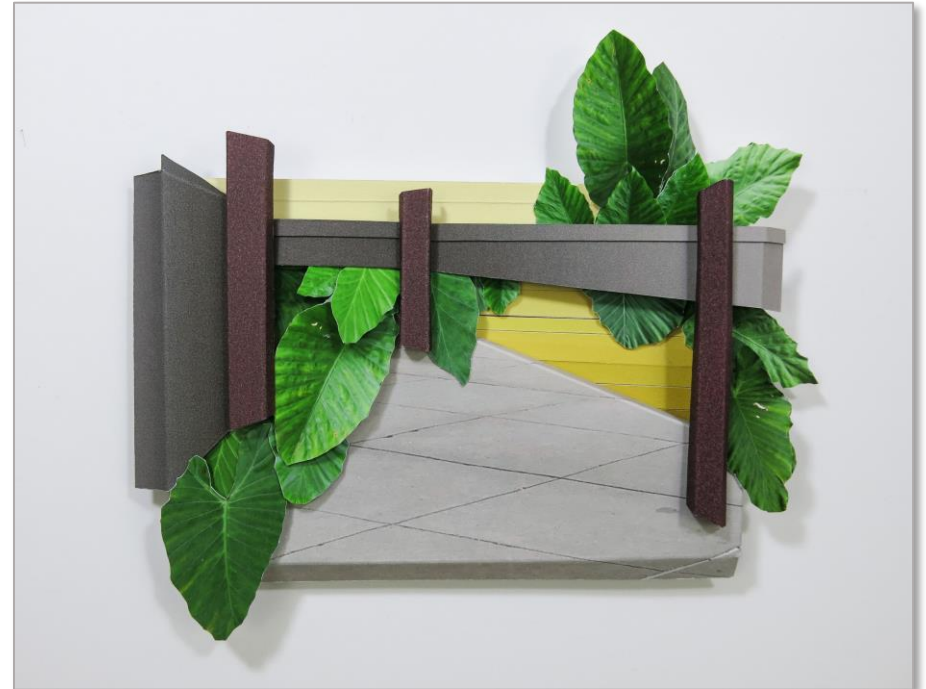


Nature-Tecture

2022

15.75"H x 11.75"W x 1.5"D (framed)

Mixed Media - Paper, Wire Mesh, Aluminum Wire,
Photographs



Nature-Tecture #4

2023

10"H x 11.75"W x 1.5"D (framed)

Mixed Media - Paper, Photographs



Within

2022

14.25"H x 12.25"W x 1.25"D (framed)

Mixed Media - paper, aluminum wire, wire mesh

"Within" Series

The "Within" series explores space as 'restriction' versus 'protection.' Using a variety of materials including paper, wire mesh and aluminum wire, I created a series of gateways.

The spaces could be interpreted as constrained enclosures or places of safety and shelter. My choice of the wire mesh presents a dominant texture and pattern, begging the question: is it harsh or does it represent protection? I invite the viewer to wander into these spaces and decide for themselves.



“Altar” Series

These works depict my search for healing and peace when the world seemed to explode with war, death, divisiveness and hatred. I was drawn to the poetry of Judeo-Christian liturgy as well as the spaces found in houses of prayer. Themes of walking from shadow into light, dark mysteries of the inner sanctum, and the majesty of the holy altar inspired me to create spaces of shelter and protection.



Altar #1

*2021
15.5”H x 14”W x 2”D (framed)
Paper*



Altar #2

*2021
16.5”H x 16”W x 2”D (framed)
Paper*



Altar #3

*2021
14.75”H x 16”W x 2”D (framed)
Paper*

“Somewhere Between”

This work follows my intention to depict spaces somewhere between the real and the imagined. Offering an ambiguous world that slides in and out of reality, I ask the viewer to consider: What is it? What do they see and feel? And ultimately, do they find themselves in it, or not?



Somewhere Between

2020

20.5"H x 20.5"W x 2"D (framed)

Paper





ARTIST CV

Education

BFA degree (sculpture) - Boston University, Boston, MA

MFA degree (sculpture) - Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 - *Somewhere Between*, Pompano Beach Cultural Center, Pompano Beach, FL
- 2024 - *Screen Shot*, The Frank Gallery, Pembroke Pines, FL
- 2023 - *Fresh Squeezed*, Morean Arts Center, St. Petersburg, FL
- 2021 - *Gallery Ring* (virtual exhibit)

Selected Group Exhibitions

2025

- *Figure/Ground*, SOBRA Collective, Pembroke Pines, FL
- 34th Annual All-Florida Juried Exhibition, MartinArts, Stuart, FL
- *Winter Small Works* (virtual exhibit) Nat'l. Assn. of Women Artists

2024

- *Transfigured*, Debbie Dickinson Gallery, New York, NY
- *Brave, Bold, Boundless*, Nat'l. Assn. of Women Artists, FL Chapter, Miami Beach, FL
- 40th Annual Juried Exhibition, National Collage Society, Baltimore, MD
- *What Lies Beneath* (virtual exhibit), Collage Artists of America
- *Un-B*Xn*, 1310 Gallery, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- *Interplay: Geometric Abstraction*, 33 Contemporary Gallery, Palm Beach, FL
- *Form + Space*, Deland Museum of Art, Deland, FL
- *Annual Juried Exhibit*, CT Acad. of Fine Arts, Slater Memorial Museum, Norwich, CT
- *Small Works* (virtual exhibit), Nat'l. Assn. of Women Artists
- *Annual Exhibit*, Nat'l. Assn. of Women Artists, One Art Space Gallery, New York, NY
- *Strictly Abstract* (virtual exhibit), O'Hanlon Center for the Arts, CA
- *#COLLAGENOW* (virtual exhibit), Denise Bibro Fine Art Gallery, New York, NY
- *Awakening Earth: A Spring Narrative*, Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, IL
- *Art + Stroll*, Business for the Arts Broward, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

2023

- *Portals* (virtual exhibit), Maryland Federation of Art
- *Paper Works* (virtual exhibit), SITE: BROOKLYN, NY
- *Expo 42* (virtual exhibit), b.j. spoke gallery, New York

2022

- *Pine and Palm*, Coral Springs Museum of Art, Coral Springs, FL
- 32nd All-Florida Juried Art Show, Martin Arts, Stuart, FL
- *Waves*, Art and Climate Exhibit, Arts Warehouse, Delray Beach, FL
- *Works on Paper*, Maryland Federation of Art, Annapolis, MD
- *Art on BRIC Walls*, Boca Raton, FL
- *Modes of Abstraction*, Art Center of Sarasota, FL

2021

- *Picking Up the Pieces* (virtual exhibit), Collage Artists of America
- *First National Exhibition* (virtual exhibit), Denise Bibro Fine Arts, NY
- *Artists to Follow in 2021* (virtual exhibit), Michael Rose Fine Art, RI
- *Leaders in Abstraction* (virtual exhibit), The Art House Virtual Gallery, Chicago, IL
- *Small Works* (virtual exhibit), 440 Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 90th Annual Juried Exhibition (virtual exhibit), National Art League
- *Artists Choice* (virtual exhibit), Foundry Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- *Continuum Exhibit*, West Palm Beach, FL

Selected Honors/Awards

- *Best in Show*, "Portals" (virtual exhibit), Maryland Federation of Art, 2024
- 1st Place, Mixed Media, 17th Annual Competition, Studio 18, Pembroke Pines, FL, 2022
- *Honorable Mention*, Art Extravaganza, Studio 18, Pembroke Pines, FL, 2022
- *Honorable Mention*, Abstractions Exhibit, Broward Art Guild, 2021
- 1st Place, Mixed Media, 16th Annual Competition, Studio 18, Pembroke Pines, FL, 2021
- 2nd Place, Art in the Time of Corona, Artist Table Virtual Gallery, 2021
- *Honorable Mention*, Abstract Exhibit (virtual), Art Show International, 2021
- *Juror's Choice Award*, Elemental, Maryland Federation of Art, 2020
- *Best in Show*, Winter Spectacular Salon, Broward Art Guild, 2019/20
- *Honorable Mention and People's Choice Award*, Tri-County Biennial Exhibit, FL, 2019

Bibliography

- *Create! Magazine Blog*, Featured Artist, August 2024
- *Modern Renaissance Magazine*, Featured Artist, July 2024
- *Create! Magazine*, Artist Interview, 2024
- *Women United Art Magazine*, Curator's Pick, Summer 2024
- *Art Seen Magazine*, Featured Artist, Autumn 2023
- *Art Fluent*, Curator's Choice, Artist Interview, 2023
- *Visionary Art Collective*, Artist Interview, 2022
- *Art Seen Magazine*, Fall/Winter 2021, Featured Artist
- *Art Gallery 118*, Featured Artist, 2021
- *Visionary Art Collective*, Featured Artist, 2021
- *Artsy Shark*, Featured Artist, 2021

Professional Artist Memberships

- National Association of Women Artists, Signature Member
- National Collage Society
- Collage Artists of America
- Allied Artists of America
- SOBRA Collective, South Florida
- Broward Art Guild, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- ArtServe, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Collections

Perlman's art is held in private collections throughout the U.S.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

"The bold shapes and colors and interplay between form and color immediately drew me into these works. These are spaces you can step into. The use of shadows to create a sense of physical architectural space is really interesting."

– Juror Kiko Aebi, Curatorial Assistant, Museum of Modern Art, NY – Finalist, b.j. spoke gallery, "Expo 42" 2023

"Secret Woods is just extraordinary! Love the medium, the colors, the precision, depth, and the allure. We are thrilled that it is part of 'Elements'."

– Amy Matteson Neill, Creative Director, Art-Fluent, "Elements" Exhibit 2022

"I thought this work ("In Harmony") was both unusual in form and wonderfully precise in execution. This work combines photography and sculptural paper resulting in an artwork that melds architecture and nature into one cohesive scene. It examines form and contrast in intriguing ways."

– Michael Rose Fine Art, Curator of national exhibit "Artists to Follow in 2021"

"This piece ('Somewhere Between') is so aptly titled as it is indeed somewhere between abstraction and being a pretty representational landscape. I am drawn to the similarity we see here to Deborah's Mangrove pieces. She has also taken the assemblage nature of that work and given it real dimension while at the same time flattened out the individual shapes."

– Curator, Artist Table Online Gallery, "Art in the Time of Corona" 2021 – 2nd Place Award, international exhibit

"Fluid composition and color ("Somewhere Between"). This work evokes the startling energy and experimentation of constructivist compositions of the early 20th century in its daring investigation of color and the physical properties of the material."

– Juror, Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts, "110th National Annual Exhibition" 2021 – Winner, Mixed Media category

"Greynolds Park 200' pushes the material and tactile range of painting, while serving as a metaphor for the chaos that is nature. In essence, this work conveys what is elemental in the world, and in us."

– Juror, Maryland Federation of the Arts, 2020 "Elemental" National Exhibit, Honorable Mention

Deborah W. Perlman



ART BY **DEBORAH**
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