

Linda Stephen Origami Fine Art

Linda Stephen Art Bio

Linda Stephen's paper *bas relief* landscapes are her unique extension of *origami*, the Japanese art of paper folding. Fluent in Japanese, Linda studied Japanese arts and worked as a teacher and translator in rural Japan for seven years.

A native of the Midwest, Linda has also traveled and worked extensively across North America, Asia and Europe. Her art celebrates special moments and beauty in our everyday lives.

Linda began making *origami bas relief* art in 2003 while living in New York. Her art is now part of public and private collections around the world, from the Mayor's Office in Omihachiman, Japan to the JW Marriott Hotel's sister city collection in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her origami landscapes have won national awards and have been featured in more than 100 juried exhibits across the country including the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. and The Museum of the Hudson Highlands in New York.

Her medium is paper, specifically handcrafted and hand-dyed papers from Japan. The colors, patterns and textures found in the papers themselves, as well as those created through the folding process, are key design elements in her art. Hundreds of artisanal *washi* papers form her palette – from transparent *chigiri-e* hand-dyed rice papers to wrinkled *momigami* to the vibrant silkscreened *yuzen* fabric papers.

For the background, she creates a watercolor look through layering papers. After choosing key papers and colors, she invents 3D *origami* paper sculptures that add shadow, give dimension and bring her work to life. This is an intricate process – both the folding of individual elements and carefully gluing each piece in place, one plane at a time. Although one artwork may incorporate more than 1,000 paper sculptures, every item that is added must enhance the composition.

Linda holds an M.A. in international journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She lives with her family in Lincoln, Nebraska and does workshops nationally on *origami* and Japanese culture. Her origami picture book *The Day We Went to the Park*, written with Christine Manno, will be published in February 2020 by Handersen Publishing and available nationally (Hardback ISBN: 978-1-647030-03-2).

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