

Pulp: Works from the Noyes Permanent Collection

Exploring Unconventional Approaches to the Medium of Paper

One of the most accessible and familiar forms of art mediums, paper is presented in its more experimental forms. With an emphasis on sculptural drawings, this exhibition showcases works with three-dimensional aspects such as raised designs, embossed images and cast paper pulp. Artists test the delicacy of paper by piercing, ripping, perforating, embossing, dyeing or casting paper pulp to build up the surface.

Many of the pieces manipulate the natural processes of papermaking. In this process, scraps of paper are saturated in water and then beaten into a pulp.

Typically, the pulp is then spread evenly over a screen, blotted to remove all moisture, and dried into flat sheets of paper. Artists in this exhibition take alternate routes throughout this process, such as dyeing the paper pulp, casting it in three-dimensional forms, or drying it into forms unlike a flat sheet of paper.

Manipulations of the surface are also seen, with some perforations, collaged materials or surface drawings.

Paper pulp was first experimented with as a sculptural medium in the 1970s, soon after the American printmaking revival of the 1960s. Printmakers were interested in new and experimental approaches to art-making, as well as the adoption of more traditional craft disciplines. Paper-making workshops began to pop up around the United States at this time, with Kenneth Tyler as the leader of the papermaking movement. After opening Tyler Graphics Ltd. in New York in 1974, he introduced major artists to papermaking through workshops taught on site. Artists of all disciplines became familiarized with papermaking, including Abstract Expressionists, Minimalists, Environmental, Feminist and Pop artists. Possibly the first major work created using paper pulp was David Hockney's *Paper Pools* (1978), created by applying colored paper pulp across several sheets of paper with turkey basters, spoons, and brushes.



Louise Nevelson, *Night Star*, 1987
Cast paper
Collection of The Noyes Museum
1997.011.001

Information about the Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University: www.noyesmuseum.org

