

Racine County's Daily Newspaper

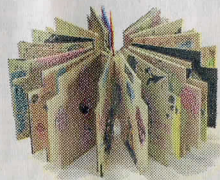
# The Journal Times<sup>®</sup>

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**RAM exhibit  
explores  
paper art**

Inside / Out & About



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**Horlick's Will Buhler  
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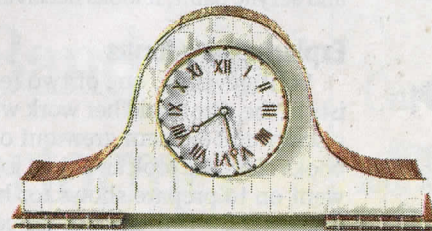
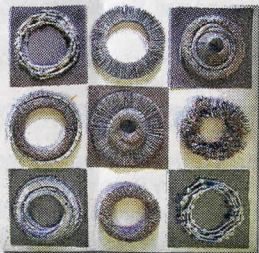
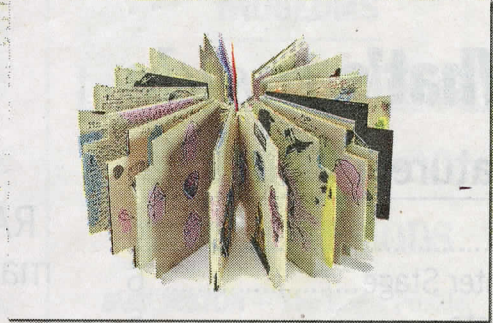


# Out & About

The Journal Times  
Week of Thursday, March 24, 2016  
[www.journaltimes.com/outabout](http://www.journaltimes.com/outabout)

## CUT, FOLD AND FORM:

RAM exhibit explores paper art





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## How to submit an event for Out & About

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Items cannot be taken by telephone. Unclear or incomplete items won't be used. Because of space limitations and the volume of material received, we cannot guarantee publication of every item.

For more information, call Loreen Mohr at 262-631-1725.

## About the cover

**Cover design:** Graphic illustration by DAN TALSKY, [daniel.talsky@journaltimes.com](mailto:daniel.talsky@journaltimes.com); using photos courtesy of Racine Art Museum

# 'Cut, Fold and Form'

RAM exhibit explores the many possibilities of paper

LEE B. ROBERTS  
[lee.roberts@journaltimes.com](mailto:lee.roberts@journaltimes.com)

Paper — in all of its beauty, fragility, strength and versatility — is explored in an exhibition at the Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St., running through May 1.

"Cut, Fold and Form: Featuring Kiff Slemmons and Julie VonDerVellen" celebrates the many ways that artists use paper to express their thoughts and emotions, in forms ranging from jewelry and clothing to artists' books, vessels, abstract sculptural forms and more.

The exhibit takes viewers far beyond more traditional, two-dimensional uses of paper to folded, layered, rolled, curled and woven creations that may appear to be made out of other materials.

In Julie VonDerVellen's "Time" series, for instance, the intricately woven, handmade paper of her "Wrapped" wrist watch could easily be mistaken for fabric or leather. And, while her "Two Times" mantle clock is constructed completely out of paper, book cloth and acrylic paint, it looks deceptively sturdy.

### Exploring new forms

VonDerVellen, one of two featured artists in the show, said her work with paper as a sculptural element grew out of an artists' books class she took and "just loved." As she went on to prepare shows for her master's degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the now Milwaukee-based artist (originally trained in graphic arts) said she began to explore the concept of an artist's book, beyond its traditional, rectangular structure.

With many stories she wanted to tell, VonDerVellen said she started working with different types of paper and various techniques, including weaving and embroidery, to figure out how she could tell those stories in new and different ways (<http://julievondervellen.com>).

Her "Time" series reflects the stories of a difficult chapter in her life, and — most importantly — the hope for the future that those around her promised the passage of time

## If You Go

**WHAT:** "Cut, Fold and Form: Featuring Kiff Slemmons and Julie VonDerVellen," an exhibition of paper artwork

**WHERE:** Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St.

**WHEN:** Now through May 1. Museum gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Hours are extended to 9 p.m. on the first Friday of the month, April through December.

**COST:** Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors (63 and older) and students.

**INFO:** Go to [www.ramart.org](http://www.ramart.org) or call 262-638-8300.

focus on where you are right now, the artist said.

"A lot of time was spent, in doing this work, reflecting on being present and grateful," she said.

### Collaborative inspiration

For Kiff Slemmons, the show's other featured artist, the journey into creating with paper began with a vacation she and her husband took to Oaxaca, Mexico, some 20 years ago. While there, Slemmons — a metalsmith who has exhibited her work nationally and internationally for more than 30 years — met and began working with local artisans, including Francisco Toledo, who run a handmade paper facility in a village outside of Oaxaca.

"There was something about the handmade paper that I found particularly appealing," the Chicago-based artist said.

Excited about the work done during that first visit, Slemmons returned to Oaxaca the following year — and for many years after — forming a collaboration which resulted in exhibitions of the work created, in both Mexico and the Chicago Cultural Center. At Toledo's invitation, she shared her knowledge and skills, creating designs for paper jewelry which local artists could reproduce and sell. And her time working with them led Slemmons to explore her own, more individualized ideas for making jewelry out of their paper, which is made with locally grown materials such as cotton and agave.

Slemmons' pieces in the RAM exhibition include a collection of bracelets made out

## PEEPS, Too!

Also now on view at the Racine Art Museum is the "RAM 7th Annual International PEEPS Art Exhibition." This popular show, which runs through April 3, features 123 entries created by more than 150 artists, all of which somehow involve marshmallow PEEPS candies.

The winning entries were announced during the show's Artist Reception and Awards Ceremony on March 17 at the museum, 441 Main St. They are:

**Adult category** — "Four & Twenty Black Peeps," by Dyan Tishuk (First Peep); "Horton Hears A Peep," by Karen Chartrand (Second Peep); "Peeps Clown Bus," by Lynn Proeber and "Polly Wanna Peep," by Bailey Rigby (honorable mentions).

**Under 12 category** — "RaPeepsel," by Tessa Locklair (First Peep); "Wall-E On Top of a Garbage Peep," by Zoe Chartrand (honorable mention).

**Family/group/organization category** — "It's A Marshmallow World," by the Paffrath Family (First Peep); "Shpeeps," by Brodie and Tom Spolar (Second Peep); "Georgia O'Peep's Studio," by David Buchanan and Linda Christian (honorable mention).

**Mayor's awards** — "Purple Peep Eater," by Debby Peck (First Peep); "Peep B.S.," by Jeff Ternes (Second Peep).

**New media awards:** Fiber — "Peep Mobile," by Jim Deibler and staff; "Edible Peeps Flower," by Jan Lancelin.

**Artistic award** — "Peeps — Honoring Louise Nevelson," by Ann Henkes.

**Director's award** — "Peepsurse," by Holly Ottum.

**Founder's award** — "Invasion of the Peep Snatchers," by Hilary Rinke.

Visitors are encouraged to vote for their favorite Peeps work of art to determine who will get the coveted Peeps Choice Award. Voting continues through April 3.

For more information, including museum hours and admission, go to [www.ramart.org](http://www.ramart.org).

Working with paper has not only allowed her to create objects on a larger scale than she can with heavier materials such as metal, but to try things she might otherwise not have tried, Slemmons said. She said she hopes her work creates some kind of excitement about jewelry for viewers, and perhaps counters some assumptions they might have.

"I hope it opens people up to what jewelry



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Her "Time" series reflects the stories of a difficult chapter in her life, and — most importantly — the hope for the future that those around her promised the passage of time would bring. And while the pieces have personal meaning for her, VonDerVellen said she hopes they will also evoke memories for viewers, from their own experiences and history.

Because none of the time pieces function, they also suggest the need to stop, be still and

focus on where you are right now, the artist said.

"A lot of time was spent, in doing this work, reflecting on being present and grateful," she said.

**Collaborative inspiration**

For Kiff Slemmons, the show's other featured artist, the journey into creating with paper began with a vacation she and her husband took to Oaxaca, Mexico, some 20 years ago. While there, Slemmons — a metalsmith who has exhibited her work nationally and internationally for more than 30 years — met and began working with local artisans, including Francisco Toledo, who run a handmade paper facility in a village outside of Oaxaca.

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Slemmons' pieces in the RAM exhibition include a collection of bracelets made out of paper discs (and other shapes) — each of which has its own, unique sculptural form — and a necklace, titled "Back to Back, Tip to Tail," in which the tightly, hand-rolled paper beads seem to change direction halfway around the loop.

of paper artwork.

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### Engaging the viewer

In addition to Slemmons and VonDerVellen,

is the "RAM" Annual International PEEPS Art Exhibition." This popular show, which runs through April 3, features 123 entries created by more than 150 artists, all of which somehow involve marshmallow PEEPS candies.

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"I hope it opens people up to what jewelry can be."

### Engaging the viewer

In addition to Slemmons and VonDerVellen,



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## FUNDRAISERS

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### Absolutely Waterford Appraisal Fair set April 2

**WATERFORD** — The second annual Absolutely Waterford Appraisal Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at Waterford High School, 100 Field Drive.

The appraisals will be done by certified appraisers who have a combined appraising history of more than 150 years. In addition, vintage and antique vendors will have booths offering items, and there will be classes on a number of antique and vintage topics. Food will be available.

The price for an appraisal is \$10 per item. Tickets are available at [www.absolutelywaterford.org](http://www.absolutelywaterford.org) or they can be purchased at the door. For more information, call Absolutely Waterford at 262-534-9000 or email [director@absolutelywaterford.org](mailto:director@absolutelywaterford.org).

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## PAPER

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“Cut, Form and Fold” features paper artwork by a wide range of other artists whose work is held in the RAM’s collection, including some recent acquisitions. Viewers can find everything from delicate paper bowls to a wall-mounted display of embroidered gloves and a ruffled dress made out of vintage atlases — as well as many interesting interpretations of an artist’s book.

Some pieces even invite the viewer to participate. Gayle Wimmer, for example, offers visitors the opportunity to have a tactile experience with her installation titled “Reconstructing Memory: Lo Stenditoio/The Drying Room,” which is inspired by a print-drying room at a studio in Florence, Italy. Guests are invited to slip on a pair of gloves and follow instructions for handling some of the dictionary pages from the installation, which explores memory and the “literal and metaphorical fragility of the written word.”

One gallery also offers a wall-mounted iPad library, which allows visitors to virtually “page through” several of the artists’ books displayed in nearby glass cases — providing a more interactive experience with the artwork.

“Cut, Fold and Form” is one of several exhibitions currently running at RAM. All are included in the price of admission which is \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. More information is available at [www.ramart.org](http://www.ramart.org).