

## Linda Herritt

### *Workspace Program 2016*

#### Artist statement

Text-based installations constructed of common materials like tape, yarn, bits of fabric, and photographs are my primary focus. Overlaid onto a digitally warped grid, the text uses lists to distill a specific cultural phenomenon: bands playing one night in Brooklyn, Chinese brushstrokes named for animals, or of the lyrical brand names of pharmaceuticals. For the Workspace Residency, I wanted to work with paper to create text-based pieces that were like my drawings or installations, but which exploited qualities I could only achieve with handmade paper.

The papermaking process is so physical and engaging that learning the different approaches was pure pleasure. Like many of the materials I commonly use, the pulp color was integral to the material, not a skin on the surface like paint. The project defined itself incrementally from test after test, with many intervening missteps.

My work often incorporates 2D illusions of depth integrated with sculpture elements. Over the course of the residency I began to see how repeating and layering elements could be used to create a strong illusion of depth. Using rigid forms in heavy cotton allowed us to cast the silhouettes. Repeating these in darker and lighter colors, we created a three-layer sandwich using stencil and blow-out techniques. Peeling the mylar stills off the wet paper was a delicate operation requiring many hands and eye droppers. Some of the dark blowouts were left soft to create a shadow effect. Sections were torn or left open. Photo transfers and fabric collage were inserted between the layers to sporadically interrupt the illusion of depth.

My final project, *Colors in Black and White* uses a graphic mixture of neutral or gray-scale tones for a text that lists the color names of commercial lipsticks or interior paints, like “dog’s ear,” “baby girl,” “cyber,” or “teardrop.” The work uses this evocative found poetry to present a mental picture at odds with the visual object.

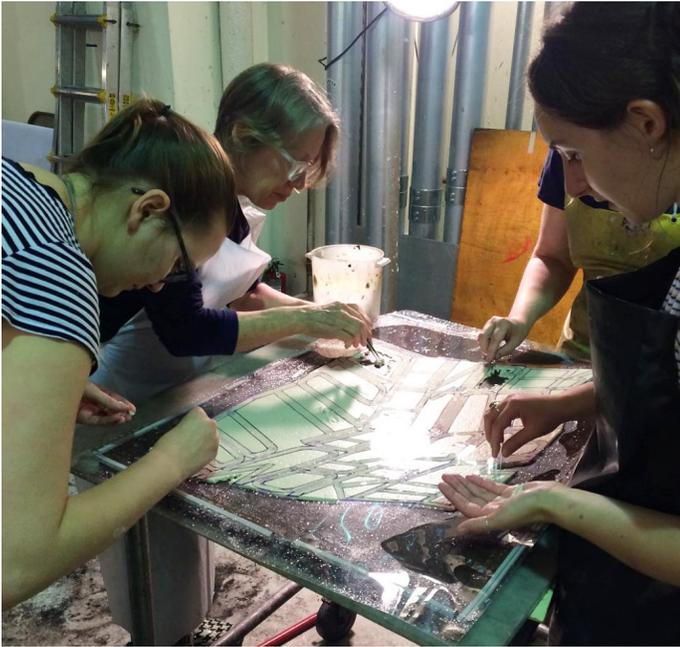
It was a privilege to have access to such a well-appointed papermaking studio and to develop a fresh project in an entirely new medium, guided by expert papermakers. With irrepressible good nature, Studio Collaborator Amy Jacobs brought me from the bare basics through a full spectrum of trial and error to a realization of my ideas. I appreciated the openness to experimentation, the deep knowledge of the studio collaborators, and the opportunity to freely explore the possibilities of the medium.

– Linda Herritt



TOP: *Moon Lace*, 2016, Formed handmade paper with fabric collage, 18 x 24 inches.

BOTTOM: *Celadon Whisper*, 2016, Formed handmade paper with fabric and photo collage, 30 x 40 inches.



**About the Artist**

Linda Herritt's installations and drawings have been exhibited in one and two person exhibitions at the Boiler (Pierogi), Brooklyn; Valentine Gallery, Queens; 1K Project Space, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Pierogi, Brooklyn; the San Francisco Art Institute, California; Florence Lynch Gallery, New York; The Frist Center for the Arts, Nashville, Tennessee; and Art&Idea, Mexico City, Mexico. She has exhibited in group shows at Storefront and Pierogi in Brooklyn; the Drawing Center, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver; Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam; and Galería OMR, Mexico City, among others. Fellowships include a NYFA Fellowship in Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts (2014), a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, a Rockefeller Foundation Grant, and a NEA Sculpture Fellowship. She participated in the International Artist in Residence Program in Vienna, with US residencies at Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony, Art/Omi, and the Marie Walsh Sharpe New York Studio Program. Her work has been reviewed in The New York Times and Art in America. Linda Herritt lives and works in Brooklyn. [www.lindaherritt.com](http://www.lindaherritt.com)

**About Dieu Donn :** Dieu Donn  is a leading cultural institution dedicated to serving established and emerging artists through the collaborative creation of contemporary art using the process of hand papermaking.

**About the Workspace Program**

Established in 1990, the Workspace Program offers annual residencies to New York State emerging artists to create new work in handmade paper. The primary goals of this program are to encourage emerging artists to explore the creative possibilities of handmade paper and to develop this art form through a process of collaboration and experimentation. The Workspace Program is presented to the public through annual exhibitions as well as through print, digital and online formats. For more information or to learn how to apply, visit [www.dieudonne.org](http://www.dieudonne.org).

**Support:** The artistic and educational programs at Dieu Donn  are made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; and Foundation support including: Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, Inc, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Ford Foundation - Good Neighbor Program, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, The Greenwich Collection Ltd., Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The Minnow Fund, The New York Community Trust, The O'Grady Foundation, The Partnership Fund for New York City, The Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts, and the Windgate Charitable Foundation along with major individual support.



ABOVE: Linda Herritt working in the Dieu Donn  studio with Studio Collaborator Amy Jacobs, Spring 2016.

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