

paperunway

where passion meets paper

ISSUE TWO AUG 2011



Bespoke Press
Kristina Karlsson
Rob Ryan
Peter Clark
Lilly Blue

PLUS
Siba Sahabi, Cath Connell,
The Paper Convention
and so much more

CREATE • PAPER • LOVE • LIFE



Rob Ryan Paper cutting



With the technology reaching across the seas we talk to Rob Ryan about his designs, some daily table tennis, creative process, how and what inspires him to continue to awe us with his finely beautiful and intricate paper cutting and wares. Speaking from his studio in London that he describes as "Bright and full of light surrounding windows. One really big table where I work. Computers and pencils, scanners and scalpels and cutting mats and lots of scraps of cut out paper all over the floor. It's messy but kind of organised. I don't like things too neat or too trashed, somewhere in-between is where I feel comfortable".

Commencing his artistic pathway to paper cutting Rob Ryan has a wealth of education and experience. Beginning with a foundation course in 1980 at Birmingham Polytechnic, Fine Art at Trent Poly and finally printmaking at the Royal College of Art concluding in 1987.



Rob started paper cutting about 8 years ago because he "just fancied a change".

Rob Ryan calls Victoria, Central London, home, where he lives and intends to live indefinitely, in his 2 bedroomed flat on the seventh floor. As a child Rob grew up in a family where his father was employed in the Air Force. After numerous moves with his family as a child, including a posting to Elizabeth in South Australia, Rob is now a true homebody and on Sundays can be found at home lying on the couch reading the Sunday papers.

Rob's design and creations start with an emotional connection to the subject. He strives to then have this connection travel through to the viewer. Enjoying creating his designs are essential "I like to make myself smile while I work" says Rob, "my work exists within a more timeless world of the emotional, it's really not of its age and is certainly non specific in relation to any place or era or culture". With no particular favourite project Rob ensures that he enjoys the moment he is in and what he is working on at present; explaining that "There's no point in doing any of this unless I feel that I am constantly getting better".

Rob is intensely inspired by many; his list is long but includes the likes of artist and potter, Grayson Perry; illustrator Maira Kalman; English painter Stanley Spencer; German Romantic painters Caspar David Friedrich and Adolf Menzel; line by Eric Gill. Seeking inspiration Rob likes a contrast between the quiet and hustle and bustle. A quiet place to be alone and think and loud busy places to invigorate him, "I love the feeling of being in places like New York City and Tokyo. Everything inspires me to do something. Even ignorant behaviour inspires me to make something beautiful to counter it".

From a career spanning 30 years one would expect many career highlights. Modestly Rob recounts his career highlight as hearing that his "pictures have helped [people] through particularly shit times. These are the things I am most proud of. It dwarfs working for cool companies or trendy commissions, not even close". As a small boy all Rob Ryan ever wanted to do was draw all day, not just because this is what most children love to do but because he knew then that drawing was his niche. Drawing and a daily hit of table tennis, day in, day out – perfect really. When we asked Rob what the worst part of his job was, thinking that there couldn't possibly be one





for this creative, he stated what “most of us” despise- accounts! “The worst thing is I have to run [my work] as a business, and I hate that side of it – Accounts, Tax, it bores the living shit out of me”. A little piece of advice from Rob Ryan... “Get the business thing sorted out from the outset. Keep good, clear accounts. Creatively always carry a notebook so you don’t lose any ideas!”

Professionally Rob, is looking forward to his new book entitled “A Sky Full Of Kindness”, which is, as we speak, at the printers. The book will be released in October and is sure to be amazing. Personally “I’ve always wanted to build a really good tree house but recently I’d like to somehow work on a house that is surrounded by a moat”. Sounds intriguing!

Oh and one last thing, Rob’s favourite shop is TOKYU Hands in Japan. ‘The best shop in the world!’. (<http://www.tokyu-hands.co.jp/en/index.html>)

www.misterrob.co.uk

Ryantown HQ, 5-6 Teesdale Yard,
Teesdale Street, London E2 6QE,
United Kingdom



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Robert Ryan