



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



A new exhibition explores the vital role of paper and papermaking within a global context.

PAPER IS PEOPLE: DECOLONIZING GLOBAL PAPER CULTURES

is on view October 28 – December 22, 2023 at San Francisco Center for the Book

SAN FRANCISCO –The exhibition *Paper Is People: Decolonizing Global Paper Cultures*, co-curated by Tia Blassingame (Founder, Book/Print Artist/Scholar of Color Collective, Associate Professor of Book Arts at Scripps College, and Director of Scripps College Press) and Stephanie Sauer (writer, publisher, and author) offers a new definition of paper within a global and decolonial framework. Featuring works by local, national, and international artists, this exhibition explores the vital role substrates play in human communities and how meaning is made from what we might call paper and papermaking.

Viewed together, the works on display seek to open a conversation around what paper is across cultures today: a vessel for collective memory, a body, a site of meaning, a living ancestor, and a form of cultural survival and resistance. Ideas about paper are linked to how communities value traditions of language, knowledge production, creative expression, storytelling, and history.

To appreciate global paper cultures in a decolonial context, it is important to consider definitions of paper that move beyond those created and sanctioned by imperial powers. In the Indigenous and oral cultures represented in the exhibition, baskets, tapestries, and other handmade substrates act as vessels and embodiments of culture and memory. *Paper Is People* presents each cultural substrate as a new definition within contextualized multimedia displays that invite thoughtful participation and engagement of the senses.

Exhibiting artists: Alisa Banks :: Hannah Chalew :: Page Pūko‘a Chang :: Julio Laja Chichicaxtle :: Kelly Church :: Hong Hong :: Chenta Laury :: Aimee Lee :: Radha Pandey :: Veronica Pham :: Trina Michelle Robinson :: Steph Rue :: Seringô Collective :: rhiannon skye tafoya

This exhibition originated at and has been organized by Minnesota for Book Arts. It is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Craft Research Fund grant from the Center for Craft, and a Zellerbach Family Foundation grant.



EXHIBITION TITLE

Paper Is People: Decolonizing Global Paper Cultures

WHERE

San Francisco Center for the Book
375 Rhode Island Street, San Francisco, CA. 94103 sfcfb.org
Admission is free.

OPENING RECEPTION

November 17, 2023, 6 - 8 pm

For further information or press photographs, please contact

Jennie Hinchcliff, Director of Exhibitions and Artistic Programs:
exhibitions@sfcfb.org



Top left: *Jaali* by Radha Pandey; courtesy of Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Top right: Group photo of The Seringo Collective, Bottom left: *Ul'nigid'* by rhiannon skye tafoya; photo courtesy of Seth Dahlseid, Bottom right: *Study for Collapsosophy* by Hannah Chalew; courtesy of Minnesota Center for Book Arts

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