



JODY GRAFF

Philadelphia, PA | graff.jody@gmail.com | @whynoti__
<https://www.artworkarchive.com/profile/jody-graff>

I create a range of work that is inspired by my joy, curiosity and awe of nature. It is a synthesis of art, design, environmental science, culture and craft.

The quilts, designs and specimens I create use botanical materials that are tied to the specific location where they were collected, which is then explored in the composition (historical quilt patterns, abstract compositions based on details found at the site, culturally tied patterns, and designs that emphasize details of the botanical).

The collected botanicals reflect the conditions of a specific season and particular environmental conditions of that time period. Drought, late season rains (resulting in leaf spotting), insect damage, the angle the sun was hitting leaves, etc. are all visible in the material and add a deeper connection to place and time. They are environmental time capsules that when collected from the same plant/location over many years, reveal a climate change narrative.

The components in all series are collected and pressed by me, and then hand-cut and individually placed and secured. The work has a slow and meditative quality, with each cut affecting the next piece and cut. The pace allows a more intimate connection to the materials and, in the collected botanicals, the time to select each unique piece. I am as invested in the process and discovery as I am in the final outcome.

The multi-media sculptures are similar to the botanical series and also connect locations, ecologies and storytelling, but are explored at a larger-than-life scale in carved wood and paper sculpture.

BIOGRAPHY

Practicing Graphic Designer/Graphic Design Professor for 36/28 years respectively. Focus in graphic design has been dimensional work (packaging, exhibition, etc.) and 2D work (branding, book design, marketing materials).

2017 Reinvigorated a personal artistic practice. Developed a paper sculpture series connected to Antigua, Guatemala, investigating the unique landscape, indigenous species, and culturally specific crafts/patterns, creating an interconnection of place, species and culture.

2022 Investigated the vernacular of quilts using collected botanical materials & exploring the finished pieces at multiple scales.

2023 Explored a new series that combines botanicals & insects and their interaction. The multimedia sculpture exists in two materials: carved wood oak leaf sculpture highlighting damage from insects (oakworm caterpillar, shothole leafminer and Japanese beetle), paired with paper sculptures of the same insects, installed in proximity to their damage.

Created herbarium specimen sheets with design interventions (cut patterns using the same leaf variety of the specimen, connecting them culturally (native location) or physically (leaves, bloom, structure)).

2024 Developed collection partnership with *Stoneleigh*, Natural Lands public garden.
<https://stoneleighgarden.org/garden/home/>

2025-26 Exploring works of increased scale, dimensionality and translucency.

EXHIBITIONS

2026

Art on the Trails

Beals Preserve, Southborough, MA (Jun-Sept 2026)

One of seventeen artists in the 10th Annual *Art on the Trails* juried exhibition of outdoor sculptural installations at Beals Preserve. *Trees Remember: Philadelphia 2023 Temperature Quilt* is a 2-sided narrative quilt with a climate change focus. <https://artonthetrails.com/2026/05/20/art-installations-scheduled-for-june-13-for-art-on-the-trails-time-in-the-landscape-at-beals-preserve-in-southborough/>

2026 multi-site Radical Americana Project

Andalusia Historic House, Gardens & Arboretum, Andalusia, PA (Apr-Nov 2026)

Selected as one of the artists included in the multi-site *Radical Americana Project* in and around Philadelphia, PA which focuses on the Semiquincentennial. *A History of Andalusia, Philadelphia and America as Told Through Plants and Narrative Quilts* outdoor installation of 2-sided narrative quilts and botanical specimens. <https://www.theclaystudio.org/exhibitions/radical-americana>
<https://andalusiapa.org/exhibition/radical-americana/>

2025

Of the Grid: Systems + Structures in Contemporary Art

Leonard Pearlstein Gallery, Philadelphia, PA (Oct-Dec 2025)

Invited to participate in a group show focused on artists that explore the grid in their artwork.

[https://drexel.edu/pearlsteingallery/exhibitions-events/exhibition-archive/2025/October/Of The Grid The Grid/](https://drexel.edu/pearlsteingallery/exhibitions-events/exhibition-archive/2025/October/Of%20The%20Grid%20The%20Grid/)

Mixed

Lancaster Art Vault, Lancaster, PA (Oct-Nov 2025)

Juried exhibition of mixed media art that showcases the creative possibilities that emerge when mediums merge.

Indescribably Magnificent World: Botanical Artworks, Prints & Specimens

Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, Philadelphia, PA
Solo exhibition of work including 2D and 3D botanical artworks, botanical specimens with design interventions, and large scale fine art prints.

Maryland Federation of Art (MFA): The Power of Color

Circle Gallery, Annapolis, MD

Juried exhibition with works by 55 artists.

NAWA Summer Small Works 2025

National Association of Women Artists (NAWA)
Online juried exhibition of small-scale works.

Magnitude Seven: 21st Annual Small Works Exhibit

Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH

Exhibition of 18 works from U.S. and England, each no larger than about 7" in size. Two-part juried process.

UPPERCASE Surface Pattern Design Guide

Featured as one of 100 portfolios in UPPERCASE Surface Pattern Design Guide, issue #65, April-May-June 2025

Peters Valley School of Craft: 2025 Second Career Makers

Sally D. Francisco Gallery, Layton, NJ

Juried exhibition.

BOTANICAL

Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH

Featuring works of visual art which explore the theme of plant life. Juried process resulted in 30 works by 21 artists from across the U.S. and Canada.

Small Works 2025: 2nd Annual Juried Exhibition

Strata Gallery, Santa Fe, NM

Featuring 44 works by 33 artists, "Small Works" invites viewers to consider the impact of scale and detail.

2024

Small Works 2024: 11th Annual National Juried Exhibition

Main Street Arts, Clifton Springs, NY

Exhibition of work 12" or smaller in any direction.

Awarded an **Honorable Mention**

The Woodmere Annual: 82nd Juried Exhibition

Woodmere Art Museum, Philadelphia, PA

Awarded the **Maybelle Longstreet Award**

2023

Westphal Makes: Design Philadelphia

Cherry Street Pier, Philadelphia, PA

Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, Design Philadelphia installation. Exhibited Bartram's Garden quilt process swatch and booklet.

Magnitude Seven: 19th Annual Small Works Exhibit

Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH

Present Tense: Drexel Art Now

Leonard Pearlstein Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

2018

Philadelphia Museum of Art Contemporary Craft Show

Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA

Westphal College of Media Arts & Design installation. Exhibited five paper sculpture works from the Antigua Guatemala Series.

AWARDS

2025

Women United ART PRIZE 2025

SHORTLISTED ARTIST in Collage & Fiber Art

2024

Small Works 2024: 11th Annual National Juried Exhibition

Main Street Arts, Clifton Springs, NY

Awarded an **Honorable Mention**

Women United ART PRIZE 2024

SHORTLISTED ARTIST in Collage & Fiber Art

The Woodmere Annual: 82nd Juried Exhibition

Woodmere Art Museum, Philadelphia, PA

Awarded the **Maybelle Longstreet Award**

<https://woodmereartmuseum.org/experience/exhibitions/the-woodmere-annual-82nd-juried-exhibition>

2023

Women United ART PRIZE 2023

LOGLISTED ARTIST in Collage & Fiber Art

PUBLICATIONS

2025

Peters Valley School of Craft: 2025 Second Career Makers

Sally D. Francisco Gallery, Layton, NJ

<https://www.blurb.com/b/12343689-second-career-makers-exhibition>

UPPERCASE Surface Pattern Design Guide

Featured as one of 100 portfolios in UPPERCASE Surface Pattern Design Guide, issue #65, April-May-June 2025

<https://uppercasemagazine.com/products/uppercase-65>

Season 21 Manifest Exhibition Annual

Hardcover publication. *Botanical* and *Magnitude Seven: 21st Annual Small Works* exhibitions.

Small Works 2025: 2nd Annual Juried Exhibition

Strata Gallery, Santa Fe, NM

<https://www.stratagalleriesantafe.com/exhibitions/small-works-2025>

2024

The Woodmere Annual: 82nd Juried Exhibition

Woodmere Art Museum, Philadelphia, PA

Featured on page 32 of digital catalogue.

<https://issuu.com/woodmereartmuseum/docs/wam-annual2024-catalogue-fnl-240605-web>

2023

100 Emerging Artworks: Women's Edition 2023

International publication featuring emerging artists, featured on a 2-page spread.

Suboart Magazine #10, September 2023

International publication featuring emerging artists, 48 artists included, featured on a 2-page spread.

Season 19 Manifest Exhibition Annual

Hardcover publication. *Magnitude Seven: 19th Annual Small Works* exhibition.

PRESENTATIONS

2025

Peters Valley School of Craft:

2025 Second Career Makers Artists Panel Talk

Virtual panel talk featuring artists showing in the 2025 Second Career Makers exhibition.

2023

Common Ground #26:

Manifest Exhibiting Artists Panel Talk

Virtual panel talk featuring artists showing in Manifest Gallery's June exhibits 2023.

2019

Curiosity & Creativity: a process

DART Speaker Series, Drexel University

Invited speaker talk that focused on my creative process and finding inspiration every day.

WORKSHOPS

2026

Botanical Artwork Workshop

The Athenaeum of Philadelphia

Invited to host a workshop teaching participants how to create quilt blocks using pre-pressed botanical materials.

GRANTS

2026

The Philadelphia Botanical Club Grant

for Botanical Research, Education, and Conservation

Received a grant to support the fabrication and installation of *A History of Andalusia, Philadelphia and America as Told Through Plants and Narrative Quilts* as part of the *Radical Americana Project*.

A comprehensive Graphic Design work history, client list and Academic CV are available upon request.