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For Immediate Release: New York – April 29, 2013

Cut, Rolled and Burnt. Manipulated Works of Paper.

Elisa Contemporary Art presents **Cut, Rolled and Burnt. Manipulated Works of Paper**. The exhibit opens May 10, 2013. It will run through August 11, 2013. Our latest exhibit explores four contemporary artists who are taking paper to extremes -- one could say *beating it to a pulp* – while creating original visions and art. While paper has been around for thousands of years, dating back to early Egyptian times when it was manufactured from the papyrus plant, our artists are showing no mercy – in their pursuit of creativity.

California Artist, Michael Buscemi began his series of white paper collages in 2012. He wanted to eliminate all existing media and be left only with light, shape and shadow. He takes extra thick rag paper and with a swift and fluid cut, creates thousands of small, shaped pieces. These severed paper pieces are then built up and layered, allowing the shadows and shapes to organically form, before being set with a polimear gel.

Amy Genser's exploration of paper as medium began in a papermaking and bookmaking class she took, while studying for her graduate degree in graphic design at Rhode Island School of Design. Today, she masterfully manipulates paper -- each piece being cut, rolled and stacked -- to mimic organic forms and natural processes. While starting as flat piles of paper, her artwork builds and grows into 3-dimensional constructions filled with color, texture and patterns.

Don Morris' constructions are carefully manipulated comic book paper pages that are cut and folded to create undulating surfaces filled with gentle peaks and curves. From a distance the viewer sees only the interplay of colors and texture. However, as the viewer is drawn in, the super heroes fly, struggle, and climb. Words bubble from the comic book text and are clearly visible throughout the pieces, allowing the viewer to read the dialog of the action heroes.

Hawaii based artist, Wayne Zebzda was born in Connecticut and started his journey out west attending the San Francisco Art Institute on a full scholarship as a painting major. With day jobs in construction, he integrated the tools of this trade into his art -- creating sculptural and installation works, as well as his carbon smoke drawings made with a blow torch.

According to Wayne, the process for his Carbon Smoke drawings is:

"I have to move continuously while the smoke pours out of the torch. If you have ever seen the film footage of Jackson Pollack painting it is a similar continuous movement, his with drips, mine with smoke and the added possibility of catching the drawing on fire. I enjoy the immediacy and physicality of drawing. The welding torch has the pressure turned down low which makes it sooty/smoky. Working back into the drawings with erasures and brushes reveals what's underneath and a clear fixative sets the soot in place (hopefully) and yes, I have burned the paper and will again."

We will be featuring one of his carbon smoke drawings, *Nest*, which served as a study for his 2012 Public Work Sculpture created from 316 pieces of stainless steel tubing.

We will be having an opening and closing reception for this Exhibit:

- Opening Reception, Saturday, May 18 from 5-7pm
- Closing Reception; Thursday, August 8 from 6-8pm

- **What: *Cut, Rolled & Burnt. Manipulated Works of Paper.***
 - **Artists: Michael Buscemi, Amy Genser, Don Morris, Wayne Zebzda**
- **When: May 10 – August 11, 2013**

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▪ **Special Events:**

- Join us on **Saturday, May 18th** for an opening reception from 5-7pm
- Join us on **Thursday, August 8** for a closing reception from 6-8pm

▪ **Where: Elisa Contemporary Art, 5622 Mosholu Avenue (near 256th Street), Riverdale NY 10471.**

▪ **Hours: Friday/Saturday 10 am – 6 pm and by Appointment**

Meet the Artists:

Michael Buscemi

Micheal Buscemi was born in upstate New York. As a young child, Michael traveled all around the country with his family. In 1986 they made their home in San Francisco bay area.

According to California artist, Michael Buscemi, "I am always in search of the spontaneous forms that seem to spring from movement. I find myself always drawn to capture these forms as they emerge, caught in a moment of their evolution. I love the freedom of expression that occurs when a gesture made by me is translated through my brush to the surface I am working with. This action demands a vigorous honesty that fills me with inspiration and appreciation for the process I am engaging in. When this works well, I am filled with an inner music, the beauty of something simple, yet complex appearing for the first time, being born out of no pre-conception."

Michael's work has become part of collections throughout California, New York and Europe.

Amy Genser

Amy Genser makes dimensional paper collages. These colorful, textural, one-of-a-kind wall pieces embody movement and processes. The collages are built from layered, rolled, and cut paper that are adhered to painted surfaces.

Amy explains her work by saying, "The sources of my work are textures, patterns, and grids. I look for forms that can be repeated to create a pattern when they are joined. My work tries to capture the essence of an experience or an image I have seen. I often look to the natural world for inspiration. I am fascinated by the flow of water, the organization of beehives, and the organic irregularity of plants, flowers, rock formations, barnacles, moss, and seaweed. Aerial views of our landscape can also be compelling; it is interesting how the organization of our landscape becomes quilt-like when viewed from above."

Her work has been exhibited at many venues throughout the northeast United States and has been featured in publications such as Architectural Digest. She earned her MFA in Graphic Design from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Don Morris

Don Morris was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and after undergraduate work at Tulane obtained his doctorate degree at Louisiana State University. He recently moved his studio from Coral Gables, Florida, to Rancho Santa Fe, California.

According to Don, "*Although there are many aspects of my work that can be intellectualized, the fundamentals still require that inner aesthetic sense. But in the final analysis it is the viewer that deems my work either 'art' or 'folly'. I ply my trade before a thousand critics.*" His art is in numerous collections and museums in the United States, Europe and Asia.

Wayne Zebzda

Wayne Zebzda is a trans-Pacific transplant and mid-career artist, currently living in Kauai, Hawaii. His art ranging from drawing to sculpture, video, photography and installations focuses on key themes including social commentary, as well as environmental or ecological issues. The conceptual play in his work often communicates serious or difficult ideas, and delights in a deep sense of humor in the face of the absurdities of life.

Wayne is committed to making art accessible to a wide audience, and has been involved in numerous Art in Public Places projects and commissions for the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture in the Arts. His work has been exhibited and collected throughout the US.

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About Elisa Contemporary Art

Elisa Contemporary Art represents a portfolio of both emerging and established contemporary artists, many of whom have work in the permanent collections of major museums and corporations.

Founded in 2007 by Lisa Cooper, Elisa Contemporary Art is dedicated to promoting the appreciation and collection of art as a way to enrich and heal our lives, our communities, and the world. The gallery opened in September 2008. Elisa Contemporary Art has participated in international art fairs in New York, Miami and the Hamptons, and curated over 12 public art exhibits in the Tri-State area. A portion of every gallery sale is donated to charities helping underserved children heal through art. We currently support Free Arts NYC and Arts to Grow. Owner Lisa Cooper also provides art consulting services.

Elisa Contemporary Art has been featured in a number of publications including Ocean Home Magazine, Hamptons Cottages & Gardens, New York Spaces and The New York Times.

For more information, visit the website at www.ElisaContemporaryArt.com. The Riverdale Gallery is located at 5622 Mosholu Avenue, Riverdale NY 10471.

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