

Be inspired by the Holburne's collection of papercuts! The Holburne collection has examples of incredibly intricate paper cut images made by Mary West (later Glover) in 1709.



The tradition of papercutting has been traced back to the Han dynasty (China) in 4th century AD. As knowledge of paper making spread around the world so too did the art of papercutting. There are examples of papercutting art in Indian, Jewish, Mexican, Swedish and Slavic traditions. Papercut art usually involves making a cut-out from a single piece of paper. Japanese papercutting is called Kirie or Kirigami (meaning cut paper).

It's all about contrast! Like silhouettes, papercuts show the outline of the subject. The image depends on this outline and the details that are cut away to reveal the darker or contrasting colour behind. This is why even the smallest detail is so important!

Diana and Acteon, Mary West, cut paper on silk, c.1709, The Holburne Museum Collection

Nahoko Kojima is a contemporary Japanese artist who created Honey Bee a 3-D hanging papercut sculpture. This was cut from a single piece of gold washi paper and created especially for the Holburne Museum in 2015.



Papercut Sculpture: Honey, Nahoko Kojima, gold washi papercut, c.2015

1 You need:-

- A pen or pencil
- White or black paper
- Scissors or a sharp cutting knife
- Cutting board or flat piece of cardboard to cut on
- Glue stick
- An empty, clean jam jar
- A little tea light or candle

2 Design your lantern:-

- Find an empty jam jar
- Make sure your paper will wrap around your jar, then cut it to also fit the jar height
- Draw the outline/ pattern/ shapes you want to cut out onto the paper (this is where the light will shine through so keep it simple!) See inspiration board for ideas.
- Carefully cut out the shapes with a cutting knife. If you only have scissors you can cut a pattern/scene /shapes out around the top of your paper
- Now glue the papercut onto the jam jar
- When dry put your lit tealight/candle inside

WARNING—never leave a papercut lantern with a candle unattended!

3 Display your lantern and watch it glow!



Top left - A papercut installation created by a Pathways group
Bottom left - A Japanese inspired papercut created by a Pathways participant
Top right - Example of a papercut jar lantern made by a Pathways participant