

Cool Cardboard Artists You Didn't Know About

More than likely, when you think of art, *cardboard* doesn't come into play; it is simply not a medium we, as a society, have been taught to consider as an artform. However, more and more it is entering the spotlight with innovative approaches, 3D sculpture, and wholly usable and functioning furniture applications that is often art in itself. One hundred percent biodegradable, compostable, reusable and upcyclable, corrugated board is easily repurposed and lends itself to amazing shapeability and unlimited vision. Forget the artistic greats you learned about in school such as Monet, Picasso and Van Gogh, and take a look at what's being presented these days, every bit as impressive and ingenious as the masters of yore.

Santiago, Chile Boasts Beautiful Mountains, Excellent Varieties of Wine and Don Lucho

Don Lucho of Santiago, Chile, presents an interesting study in 3D cardboard sculpture with his life-sized, real-world portrayal of happenings like car crashes and downed planes. Usually painted in whitewash to reduce impact and calls to the police for assistance, the images are no less powerful and intriguing. A cardboard car almost halved by a terrible 'crash' into a light pole is a sobering reminder to every driver to slow down, be careful and leave the drinks behind. Simply impressive for sake of attention to detail, Lucho has also created an apartment out of cardboard and a black marker. The kitchen walls are hanged with cardboard utensils, while cardboard shoes lay apparently kicked off beside the cardboard bed and nightstand. A cardboard toilet has black marker water scribbled in its bowl, while cardboard mugs and placemats are set neatly on the – you guessed it - cardboard table.

She Made What Out of Cardboard?

Sylvie Reno is a repurposed cardboard artist who works in life scale, too, creating impressive replicas of banks vaults, gun cabinets, and knife displays, even escalators and cigarette packs complete with lighter. They are just for show, but what a show it is! Every piece looks absolutely lifelike, but without the color to completely confuse the viewer. Reno fashions full-sized cars, heavy machinery, pipes and plumbing, all out of the amazingly versatile cardboard medium.

If Frida Kahlo Were Alive, What Would She Think?

With an eye for dizzying amounts of detail, the whimsical corrugated board sculptures of Ana Serrano never fail to capture the attention and stoke the fire of childhood fantasy in all who look on her work. Employing mixed media, cardboard, acrylic paint, and printed paper, the first generation Mexican American is inspired by cultural context, and features an interest in low socio-economic climes, beliefs, and fashion. Currently, she's exploring the drug trade, alongside the acceptance of drug lords and their lifestyle. One can only imagine what Serrano will produce from this experience.

Windmills, Tulips, Wooden Shoes and Now Cardboard Artists

Inspired by lacy coral, leafy trees, and possibly vegetables found in the produce aisle of your favorite grocery store, Ferry Staverman, a Dutch artist living in Apeldoorn, beautifies the world around him with the forced 3D sculptures he creates with repurposed cardboard and string. By repeating a design numerous times, he is able to upcycle (that is, to take an object or material repurpose it into something more valuable than it was originally) the corrugated board he uses, paint it in washes of color, and display it like a gorgeous marine aquarium. Many of the pieces look like crowns, the tops of Russian cathedrals, or delicate snow castles, and are reminiscent of the paper honeycomb sculptures mom puts on her table for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Some are small and dainty; others are life sized and a veritable forest of cardboard intrigue.

From Clay to Cardboard

Blended with some humor and appreciation of the absurd, Ann Weber is a very cool cardboard artist who tends to work in strips, rather than whole pieces, of cardboard. The effect is a not unlike a woven basket, or a wicker look that is organic and warm, with a bit of whimsy and something to say. Not new to the art scene, Ann has enjoyed working with cardboard for some time now, gathering an impressive portfolio of very large pieces, and perhaps inspiring others to try their hands at this environmentally friendly endeavor of expression. Originally a clay artist, Ann prefers the lightweight cardboard to the awkward process of clay. Inspired herself by Frank Gehry who introduced the first cardboard Wiggle chair in 1972, Ann took to corrugated in 1991 and presents metaphorical conundrums and everyday life experiences with her sculpture, often pushing the size in an attempt to expand the piece larger and larger before it collapses, a commentary on balancing acts humanity struggle with each day.

These are not, by far, all the cool cardboard artists out there, and it's strongly recommended you explore the field further and maybe even try it for yourself. You could very well be the next cool cutting-edge cardboard sculptor the world has been waiting to see.