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Elizabeth Gregory-Gruen's *Cut Work*, is a free hand paper cutting process that charts the contours of our ever-changing emotional experience through the movement of form, line, color, and light and shadow. Evolving over the course of years, *Cut Work* travels through Gregory-Gruen's diverse vocabulary of mediums from paper and metal, to leather and 12-gauge gunshot blasts to understand the play between visceral emotional responses and meditative rest.

"*Cut Work* is a process to open the mind's imagination through contemplative reflection and to vacate the strife of daily life," says Gruen.

Using scalpel-cut multilayered imagery, the dimensional layers makes space for shadows to fall and move with an unhurried vibration. Imperfection becomes perfection. There are no guides, rules, drawings or plans in the process. The image is determined free hand in the top layer of the image. An adhesive is added under the top layer followed by another layer of paper, which is, in turn, cut—the process continuing to create multiple inward layers. Additionally, Gruen uses this process to simultaneously build a relief utilizing the shapes cut from the layers. The elements of the composition speak to the implications of patterning, shape and arrangement of life. Taken together, the work is a manifestation of universal completeness.

Elizabeth Gregory-Gruen grew up in Chicago. Both her mother and grandmother were artists, introducing Elizabeth to visual thinking and imagination at an early age. Inspired to pursue her creative ideas, she moved to New York City in 1985 to attend Parsons School of Design. She received a BFA in Fashion Design 1989 and worked in well-known design studios. In 2013, Elizabeth left fashion design to focus on the *Cut Work* exploration. Gregory-Gruen currently resides in New York City with her husband, photographer Bob Gruen.