

100 Creatives 2012: Orna Feinstein, Printmaker and Installation Artist

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We are flying down the highway with [Orna Feinstein](#), who is chattering excitedly about showing us her exhibition of prints on Plexiglas, "Magnified Realities," now showing in the front lobby of Williams Tower until July 27. She just got done giving us a tour of her mind-blowing "Multi-librium" installation exhibit, which opened at Box 13 last weekend and will be showing every Saturday from 1-5 p.m. or by appointment until August 18. "Multi-librium" is a room-size installation of pre-assembled and on-site reassembled gallery invitations. The show was born when, two weeks before a scheduled showing at the Museum of Printing History, Hurricane Ike caused a leaky roof in the building.

"I have already printed 3000 invitations!" the curator wailed. "What am I going to do?"

"Give it to me," Feinstein told the curator. "I'll make you an installation."

Four years and thousands of invitations later, walking through "Multi-librium is like walking through a garden of paper-made flowers. The interactive exhibition is stunning, to say the least. And so is the creativity and commitment of Feinstein.

What she does:

Feinstein has been a printmaker for 13 years and an installation artist for four. She proudly refers to herself as an "experimental artist," working on: monoprints, 3-D monoprints, monoprint installations, sculptural installations and mixed media pieces. "I like to experiment with new materials and to find ways to do things that are unique to me," Feinstein said.

She moved to Houston from Israel 27 years ago. 15 years ago, she became a full-time artist with the luxury of working in her own studio on a daily basis. "I wake up every morning, and I can't wait to get to the studio." Once inside, Feinstein works on projects concurrently. She may spend a few hours printing onto Plexiglas, another few coloring in microscopic lines and yet another stitching together thousands of invitations.

Why she does it:

Whenever a painter pushes a brush onto an easel, he or she knows where it's going and what it will look like, said Feinstein. When a sketch artist puts a pencil to a pad, he or she also knows the same thing. However, when you push down onto a press, you never know exactly what the

final product will look like once the press comes up. Setting up an installation carries the same unpredictability; it took Feinstein a week to perfectly arrange her "Multi-librium" pieces to fit into the dimensions of Box 13's 10 x 5 foot space. It is this mystery that excites her. "I'm passionate about the process and the end result," she said.

What inspires her:

"Nature."

If not this, then what?

"There's absolutely no other thing that I would have done, or will do."

If not here, then where?

"My family is in Houston, and I love being with my family," she said. "My studio is in Houston, and I love being in my studio. I have no reason to be anywhere else."

What's next?

Feinstein has two upcoming exhibitions. One will be held at Lonestar College-Kingwood, while the other, she says with a grin, is still in development, and therefore can't be talked about yet. Next fall, Feinstein will be part of a two-person printmaking exhibition in Raleigh, North Carolina.