

JOAN HALL

THIS LANDLOCKED MASTER PRINTMAKER AND PAPERMAKER FINDS HER INSPIRATION IN THE SEA

The overarching metaphor in Joan Hall's life is the sea. She sails; her huge black Bouvier is named Schooner; her work is oceanic in its enormity. "I really like work that's bigger than me," she says, "because on the ocean, I like the sensation of being a little thing in a giant space." But the sea's present in the tiny details, too: Hall creates printmaking plates from her collection of fishing nets, then cuts out the negative space in the weave to create an undulating grid, layering cutouts between enormous pieces of handmade paper and spilling paper pulp over the surface to evoke sea spray.

"I've documented things along the ocean for years, broken things that have washed ashore," she says. "I mix that with images of our bodies. The work takes that idea of these things deteriorating, how we're a part of the environment—and where those two things cross."

—STEFENE RUSSELL

For more information about Joan Hall's work, visit her website at joanhallstudio.com.

