

Welcome Genevieve!



Hand Papermaking welcomes its new newsletter editor, Genevieve Lapp (right), who replaces the interim editor Amanda Degener (left).

Occasionally you run into someone who has a spark, something more than youth or intelligence. For lack of a better term, I will call it “positive energy.” Whatever that is, Genevieve Lapp has it, and it is one of the many reasons it is great working with her. She has experience writing online, including for Arnold Grummer’s blog and on an educational blog of her own called The Fiber Wire. She approaches her work creatively and with respect for others. She received her undergraduate degree from Syracuse University in environmental studies, focused on communication, culture, and writing.

Genevieve has experience with production papermaking, makes art with paper, and has a master’s degree in paper engineering from State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. She spent two years working as a research and development technician at Knowlton Technologies, a specialty paper mill in Watertown, New York. The paper mill used over 150 types of fibers, many of them synthetic. Lapp was responsible for a lot of paper testing, making sure the papers had certain properties that were important to the customer.

As an artist, Genevieve has exhibited paper and book works nationally and internationally and she worked with Alejandro Geiler, a production hand papermaker in Buenos Aires whom she deems her mentor. For Geiler, she made paper for the store that was attached to the paper mill, sometimes producing 200+ sheets of paper a day. The

establishment is a print and paper studio, with screen printers and bookbinders working to make journals, posters, and stationary sets from Geiler’s paper, while also selling them as sheets in the store.

In 2013, Genevieve was an intern at Cave Paper and also helped make paper for the Winter Book at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, where she is currently a member of the artist collective. When I asked Genevieve what I should let people know about her, she wrote: “I love helping papermakers, particularly new ones, find answers to process and paper science questions. I enjoy community building activities and events. I believe that we all have something to learn and something to share concerning our craft, regardless of our experience. I live in Minnesota with my son, husband, and long-haired chihuahua. I like gardening and macaroons. I’m looking forward to being plugged into the paper community as the newsletter editor.”

Genevieve’s engagement with paper—in the commercial industry, making artwork, and writing about handmade paper—gives her a well-rounded point of view. We are lucky she will be part of the team. My only advice to Genevieve is to persevere. Often it just gets down to the day-in-and-day-out workload and all the tiny decisions that become something that truly matters.

—Amanda Degener



Genevieve Lapp making paper at the Buenos Aires studio of papermaker Alejandro Geiler.