



Smithsonian American Art Museum
Renwick Gallery

Jocelyn Châteauvert

Born in Des Moines, Iowa, 1960; lives in Charleston, S.C.

Paper artist Jocelyn Châteauvert uses traditional hand papermaking techniques to sculpt paper pulp into jewelry, lighting designs and large-scale environments. Châteauvert transforms a fibrous material which is typically 2-D into 3-D objects that bring the natural world inside. In her work, light dances on the surfaces and shadows introduce drama while the rustle of the layers completes the sensory experience.

“I am in continuous dialogue with the material itself,” said Châteauvert. “I allow my hands to respond to the paper and inform me.”

Châteauvert trained as a metalsmith, but she has made papermaking her primary craft. She studied at the University of Iowa in Iowa City where she earned a bachelor of arts in design in 1984 and a master of arts in jewelry and metalwork in 1990. While there, she studied with renowned metalsmith artist Chungchi Choo and internationally recognized papermaker Timothy Barrett.

In 1990, Châteauvert was an artist-in-residence in metalsmithing at Middlesex Polytechnic in London, England. She returned to the United States to launch a limited production line of jewelry designs, first based out of San Francisco and later Mount Vernon, Iowa. A few years later, Châteauvert shifted her focus from jewelry to lighting design.

Châteauvert has received several commissions for site-specific installations in public spaces including from the Charleston County Public Library and the Circular Congregational Church, both in Charleston, S.C. She has exhibited her work across the United States, including recently at the Fayetteville Museum of Art in Fayetteville, N.C. and the Smithsonian Craft Show. She has received a number of grants and awards, including an award in 1995 for her lighting designs from NICHE magazine and a 2005 Craft Fellowship from the South Carolina Arts Commission.