

LOCAL STORIES NOVEMBER 29, 2021

# Rising Stars: Meet Noa Yekutieli



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Today we'd like to introduce you to Noa Yekutieli.

## Hi Noa, we'd love for you to start by introducing yourself.

I was born in California to a family of artists and due to us relocating to Israel, art became my most consistent language throughout life. I always had a strong connection to craft as it carries tradition on the one hand, and on the other hand, it can be a channel to explore complex social-political circumstances in a very gestural manner. I come from a Japanese-American-Israeli background, which isn't such a common combination, therefore I feel that my art is the place where all sides of me can co-exist without becoming conflicted but instead in dialogue. I feel that the cultural juxtaposition in myself comes through as a dialogue that creates a contrast between the subject matters in my work that often explore themes of destruction with the esthetics of the manual paper-cutting technique; many times merging realities through which I hope to engage in a multi-perspective observation.

## Would you say it's been a smooth road, and if not what are some of the biggest challenges you've faced along the way?

The rhythm of life is always a combination of both somehow. One of the biggest challenges for me was a few massive relocations throughout life which required me to re-build a new professional network from (almost) scratch in a different environment while going through my own re-construction process. Needing to define things while still in the process may be a challenging element at times. I

think that a big part of being an artist is to figure things out through the art, which many times can only be fully understood in retrospect after leaving the origin or context they were created in. So I guess making art in one context and then moving with it to a new context provides both distance for reflection but also displacement in a sense.

**Appreciate you sharing that. What else should we know about what you do?**

I am an installation artist that works mostly in manual paper cutting techniques. My use of ideas through manual paper-cutting techniques enables me to break some of the gender dynamics of what is defined as art vs craft. In an ongoing exploration of human-made and natural disasters, I use the paper-cutting technique and physical debris of discarded buildings to suggest both fragility and permanence. I work with source images of disasters to metaphorically speak to the universal experiences of destruction, loss, trauma, and memory. Adopting a symbolic relation to ruins, I explore the collective and personal process of remembering and forgetting the past. Through an evolutionary process of working with images, I afford viewers glimpses into the construction and development of narratives. By layering specific images of day-to-day human interactions, I bring together various stories into a singular frame to examine how larger social and political structures affect the personal realm of empathy and emotion and vice versa. The focus of the works migrates from the personal to the collective and back again to the personal.

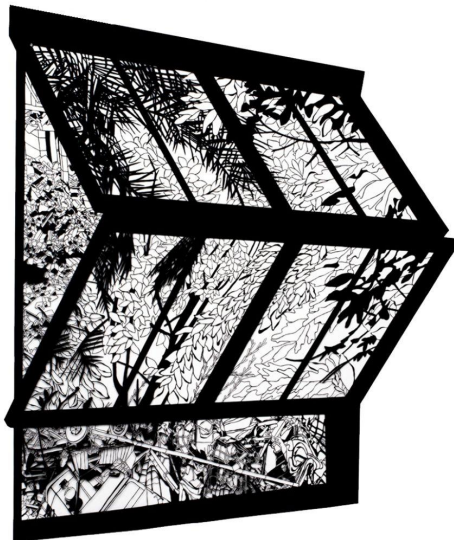
**Can you talk to us about how you think about risk?**

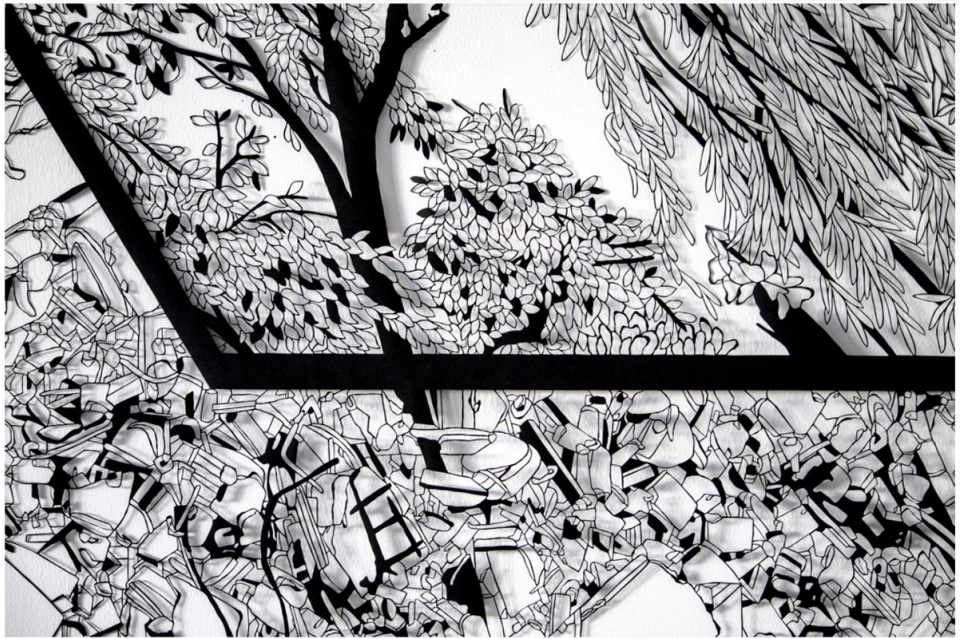
I think risk-taking is an inevitable action for people that are willing to accept change. Stepping away from what is familiar for us is a risk-taking action which I have quite recently done when I moved from Tel-Aviv to LA 5 years ago. Moving to a new culture acts as a reminder of how adaptable we are at the end. I think it was very much experienced also in the background of the pandemic we are going through, we all embraced new methods of work, if in practice, in space, or in confronting fears that may not have come up otherwise. For myself, this period of time revealed a strong feeling of capability, of working and creating in circumstances that may have seemed impossible in the past. As my studio building was shut down during the beginning of the pandemic, it compelled me to confront my vulnerability of letting go of what is familiar and challenging myself to take the risk of exploring new ways of working.

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