

Constance Old

Where did you study? I studied initially at Princeton University as an undergraduate and then got my Masters degree in Graphic Design from Yale University.

Who are your favorite artists? After working with Dan Flavin I took a liking to his work using fluorescent bulbs to paint with different colors of light. I tend to like artists that work in a limited medium or palate such as how Flavin was limited by a certain range of colors that fluorescent bulbs were manufactured in.

What techniques do you use? I use an ancient rug hooking technique for most of my pieces but also do pieces using mixed media collage and printing.

How did you find your technique? My friend initially introduced me to the technique by taking her mother and I to a class. At first I was uninterested and hesitant and only attended because I was invited but after a while I took a liking to it and was fascinated by its history.

What/who inspires you? What inspires me the most are artists that work in very specific palates or media. I find my rug hooking process creatively stimulating but also inherently limiting, so I am inspired by artists such as Dan Flavin, Xu Bing, and also peers from my time at Yale.

Do you have a day job? I work as a graphic designer in addition to being a fine artist and in the past I worked as an art director for Martha Stewart and a freelance book designer as well.

How long does it take to make a piece? For a large work such as my rug piece 'Plastic Floats Forever', it could take up to the length of a baseball season to finish—so I would say around 6 months for a big piece and a few days or weeks for smaller pieces.

Do you show your work often? I show my work as often as I can and have had pieces at the International Print Center New York, Gallery for Contemporary Art at Sacred Heart University, Farnsworth Art Museum, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Hunterdon Museum of Art, The Carver Museum, Katonah Museum of Art, Brookfield Craft Center, Silvermine Guild Arts Center and the Center for Contemporary Printmaking.

Any advice for young artists? I would say to pursue your medium to its fullest extent and to really never stop working. Don't be discouraged and try to take every opportunity to step out of your comfort zone.

