



Angie Pickman

Smoky Hill River Festival Print 2018

“Smoky Hill Sun Song”

As a native of the Midwest, I feel a strong connection to the landscape of this region. After living in New York City for many years, I discovered while still there that I wanted to strengthen that connection and began centering my work around the spirit of the Midwestern terrain. My need to simplify and find a quietude that would better foster my art took me back to my homeland, which has proven to give me the inspiration that I need to make my art continually: a simpler lifestyle combined with constant access to my muse.

My cut paper collages reflect my need to simplify while at the same time appreciate the beauty of even the most minute aspects found in nature: intricately detailed subjects, often combined with bursts of color, made by cutting away all that is unnecessary.

The 2018 Festival Print is entitled “Smoky Hill Sun Song.” The visual landscape of the Smoky Hill River valley was the primary inspiration for the print. “I enjoy incorporating birds in my work, because through them, I often portray symbolic action. In this case, the sun symbolizes the Festival celebration. The sunflowers are what the artists, musicians, food vendors, and audience- all symbolized by birds- are bringing to it.”

Pickman’s print is based on a cut-paper collage in which she uses her signature black silhouette paper, color-glazed Kansas maps and tissue paper on a basswood base. “If you look closely at the map used for the sun, you’ll see that Salina, KS is prominent,” says Pickman.

“Many shows I do are celebrations of art, but can be more or less of an “art market” for buyers and sellers. The River Festival is so much more than that, with the integration of food, music, and other activities, all in one special place.”

Angie Pickman exhibits at galleries and art fairs across the U.S., does illustration, animation and design work and teaches various art classes and workshops. Her work has been featured in publications including *Midwest Living* and *Martha Stewart Living*. Her animation work was featured in “Daughters of the Forest,” a 2016 PBS documentary. A participating Festival artist on and off since 2010, Pickman also created the popular, mandala-style Festival T-shirt design in 2017 and will exhibit in the 2018 Fine Art Show.