

## **Emma Varley Artist Statement July 2002**

Paper is fundamental to my practice as an artist and printmaker. I am currently exploring its existence as a substrate, and its ability to be transformed. My fascination is with paper cutouts, the creation of surface, spacial illusion and color as reflected light. Ideas originate through drawing, the cutting of stencils and shuffling of paper. Multiple printmaking processes are then applied, through a constant re-cycling and re-printing, a way forward is found.

Due to the physicality of working with paper as a material and not solely as a substrate a natural need to create sculptural forms has evolved. The paper cut becomes both object and subject. The arrangement of cutouts fluctuate in scale and mounting distance from the wall, the back of each piece reflects color as light onto the wall surface.

A multiplicity of origins, symbols and referents inform the work. In one camp are mechanical devices, signature objects of our postindustrial age ranging from space satellites to the latest household appliances. In the other camp is nature untrammelled, symbolized by threatened but still blossoming species of wildflowers endangered by urban sprawl.