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'City of Roses' 

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## Alberta Street's Paper Lanterns

Asian styles  
 mimic nature



BY CARI HACHMANN  
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

For 13 years, the handmade paper lanterns glowing in the window of HiiH Gallery on Northeast Alberta Street (pronounced Hi Hi) have yet to dull. Husband and wife team, Lâm Qu?ng and Kestrel Gates, keep their designs as fresh as Portland's turning seasons.

The most colorful of the dangling lanterns and stationary lamps mimic a unique instance in nature—the fleeting beauty of a poppy in blossom—while others more subtle, reflect the originality and freedom of an artist absorbed in creative thought or memory.

Other lanterns take the form of sea creatures, insects, budding plants, or Asian aesthetics and encompass a list of light fixtures including sconces, ceiling fixtures, table lamps, standing lamps, pendants, and chandeliers.

Using traditional and self-taught techniques and natural raw materials, the duo brings together the function of light, the craft of paper, and the art of sculpture, in a process of paper-making, wire bending, painting and waxing.

Originally from Vietnam, Qu?ng started making paper after he moved to Portland in 1990. Inspired by childhood memories of moon festivals, he soon began experimenting with structural lamp forms and honed his skills through workshops and admired influences.

In 1998, Qu?ng's refined pieces lead to the opening of HiiH Gallery. His wife, originally from Ashland, joined him in 2004, drawing on her background in the performing arts to enrich the design and creation of HiiH's lamp forms.

Qu?ng says many ideas for the lanterns come from the natural world, invoking the cycles of new growth, of silence and fruition. "We have a garden; we spend time in nature as much as possible," he said.

The couple revels in hikes around Portland—local swimming holes, in fields, and off

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PHOTOS BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Lâm Qu?ng is one half of the husband and wife team that creates handmade paper lanterns for the couple's HiiH Gallery on Northeast Alberta Street. The poppy desk lamp next to him is handcrafted with paper, wire, paint and other natural elements.



Absorbing ideas from nature, childhood moon festivals, and Asian aesthetics—a variety of light sculptures color the window inside the HiiH Gallery at 2929 N.E. Alberta St.