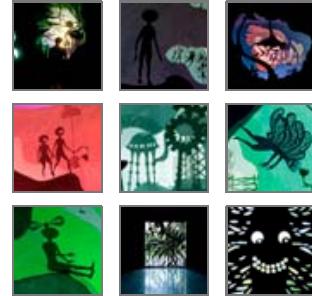




Sometimes in My Dreams I Fly, 2010
Photo: Nash Baker © nashbaker.com

Additional photos



Andrea Dezsö *Sometimes in My Dreams I Fly* 8 April - 8 August 2010

Growing up, [Andrea Dezsö](#) was obsessed with space travel. Dezsö explains, "There was always this idea of a possible escape place, and because we did not have passports and could not go anywhere in Communist Romania, travel was only possible in your mind. What captured my imagination was how not being able to go somewhere physically opens the possibility of epic mental Odysseys, and how we can stuff empty space with rich imaginary worlds, then move in."

For her installation *Sometimes in My Dreams I Fly*, Dezsö will expand upon a technique she uses to make her distinctive "tunnel books." Small, handmade books that reveal three-dimensional scenes, tunnel books are created from layers of paper that are individually drawn, cut out, and painted. Each layer is then stacked one in front of another in a collapsible case to create a miniature world with depth and detail that draw in the viewer. At Rice Gallery, Dezsö's tunnel books will become life-size, with tunnels as wide as six feet. The individual "tunnels" will be placed just behind Rice Gallery's large front glass wall, creating portals a viewer can peer into but enter only with their imagination. The human scale will be a departure point to another reality. Explains Dezsö, "I want to transport the viewer, as

Exhibition Programming

For information about exhibition programming, visit Rice Gallery's [Calendar](#).

Rice Gallery Videos

Andrea Dezsö



Watch the full-size video [here](#).

Viewer Responses



when you pass by a house and look into a window and see a different world from your own.”

Much of Dezső’s work refers to, as she puts it, a “childhood, which never entirely went away.” An ethnic Hungarian, who grew up in Transylvania, Romania, Dezső describes most of her childhood memories as “quite sweet,” despite shortages of medicine and food, censorship, and ethnic discrimination. Books were very important to her. She says, “We didn’t have access to contemporary publications so we read the classics. We lived in books. Travelled through them.” After three years of trying to get into the local art college and not being accepted because of ethnic quotas, she emigrated to Hungary in 1989 – a process that took 18 months and countless bribes. At the Hungarian University of Design in Budapest, she received a BFA and MFA in graphic design, and shortly thereafter in 1997, moved to New York, where she has lived and worked since.

In New York, Dezső began to reflect on her life in Romania by creating one-of-a-kind books, paper-cuttings, and embroideries to tell open-ended, idiosyncratic narratives involving larger-than-life praying mantises, looming forests, fantastical gardens, factories, sputniks, astronauts, aliens, and people in bunny suits, to name just a few reoccurring characters. Dezső continues to hone what one writer describes as her “folk toolkit,” preferring the handmade to the computer aided. She has worked recently in stop-motion animation, mosaics, ceramics, as well as traditional Japanese techniques of indigo dyeing and the ancient art of fusuma-e screen painting, becoming the first Westerner in Kamiyama, Japan to ever paint such a screen during a residency there. Her installation at Rice Gallery will be her first site-specific installation.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in Transylvania, Romania, Andrea Dezső received a BFA in Graphic Design & Typography (1994), and an MFA in Visual Communication (1996) from the Hungarian University of Design in Budapest. In 1997, she moved to New York where she lives and works as an Assistant Professor of Media Design at [Parsons The New School for Design](#). Dezső has had solo exhibitions in Hungary, Japan, and New York. Her work has been in numerous group exhibitions, most recently, *Slash: Paper Under the Knife*, at the Museum of Arts & Design, New York (2009). Awards, honors, and residencies include a

Brochure

[Download PDF File](#)

Press

Review by Troy Schulze,
[Visual Art Source](#)
10 May 2010

Review by Rainey Knudson,
[Glasstire](#)
19 April 2010

Article by Theresa Boyer,
[The Rice Thresher](#)
9 April 2010

Article by Douglas Britt,
[Houston Chronicle](#)
8 April 2010

Past Press

Article in
[Tablet Magazine](#)
25 March 2010

Article by Keith Recker,
[HandEye Magazine](#)
5 November 2009

Article by Andrea Dezső
[New York Foundation for the Arts
Current](#)
15 December 2007

Jean Michael Kohler Arts/Industry residency (2009), Kamiyama Artist-in-Residence, Tokushima, Japan (2008), a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship (2007), and a Six Points Fellowship in Visual Arts (2007). For New York City's Arts in Transit program, Dezsö created Under The Garden (2009), a poster that will appear in subway cars throughout 2010. Community Garden, a large-scale public mosaic for the Bedford Park Boulevard subway station was awarded Best American Public Art (2007). Her illustrations have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Time Magazine*, and *Newsweek*. In 2007, Dezsö created a special wrap-around jacket that folded out into a full-size poster for Issue 23 of the literary quarterly, *McSweeney's*.

Article by Roja Heydarpour,
The New York Times
5 June 2007

Andrea Dezsö's *Mamushka*,
Esopus Magazine
Fall 2004

Additional Links

In the Studio: Andrea Dezsö
The Museum of Arts and Design
2009

For Andrea Dezsö's animations,
visit her YouTube channel.

Follow Andrea Dezsö on Twitter.

Rice University Art Gallery
6100 Main Street
Houston, Texas 77005
(713) 348-6069

Join the Rice Gallery email list