

# What It's Made Of

What are Paul Robles' artworks made out of (or what do you think they're made out of)?

If you look underneath the photographs of these artworks, a lot of information is included: the artists' name, the title of the artwork, the year the artist made it, what it is made out of, and the size.

Can you pick out the materials, or what each of these artworks is made out of?



Paul Robles, *Untitled (Sanguine Koi)*, 2020, Cut Origami Paper on Vellum, 27x27 inches (framed).

Have you seen or used butcher paper? What would you normally use it for? What colour is it normally?

Have you seen or used origami paper? Would you normally cut origami paper?

The artist hasn't used any of these papers in the expected way. Is he disrespecting the origami paper by cutting it? Is he elevating the butcher paper by using it for art instead of wrapping bloody cuts of meat? All of the choices an artist makes contribute to the meaning they want to convey.

Can you interpret Paul Robles' artworks by putting together the meanings contained in his subject matter, colour and materials?

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## Self-guided tour The Four Humours

by artist Paul Robles



Paul Robles, *Untitled (Melancholic)*, 2020, cut butcher paper on vellum, 27" X 27" (framed).

from the exhibition

**A Pea Can Be Chopped Up  
and Reassembled Into  
The Sun**

curated by Sandee Moore

May 28 - July 31, 2021

# Scissors, Paper

Do you know about Chinese paper cutting?

Do you know about traditions of paper cutting in cultures around the world?

What sorts of things do you see in Paul Robles' cut paper artworks?



Paul Robles, *Untitled (Blood Choleric)*, 2020, Cut Origami Paper on Vellum, 24 x24 inches (framed).

# Lucky Lucky

Are you familiar with lucky symbols?

In China, good luck symbols include the Chinese characters for "luck" and "happiness." Other lucky images include the butterfly, which means doubling of all good things; lotus flower with fish means wealth; pomegranate fruit, because it is filled with many seeds, indicates a wish for lots of children.



By ProjectManhattan - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=30631016>

What sorts of symbols or images do you think represent good luck?

# What colours do you see?

Has Paul Robles used naturalistic colours? For instance, is a monkey normally green?

Why might an artist use colours that are different from how things appear in nature?

Colour conveys specific meanings in traditional Chinese paper cutting, although most of the time red is used.

red	cyan	yellow	white	black
fire	wood	earth	metal	water
bitter	sour	sweet	pungent	salty
South	East	West	North	Up
Summer	Spring --		Fall	Winter

Do any of these colours convey a meaning or feeling to you?



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