



SILVIA FURMANOVICH



PAPIER MÂCHÉ



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During a visit to Kashmir, Silvia Furmanovich was introduced to the refined craftsmanship of papier mâché — an intricate technique deeply rooted in the region’s artistic heritage.

The centuries-old technique combines layers of paper and natural adhesives to create richly textured surfaces, later hand-painted with intricate motifs. Silvia Furmanovich was drawn to the beauty of this process, where simple materials are transformed into highly detailed decorative works.

Threatened by mass-produced factory goods, the original papier mâché craft of Kashmir is still persevered thanks to the dedication of local artisans who have passed the technique for generations. Its signature pieces stand as a testament which showcase precision, patience, and a deep understanding of form and color.

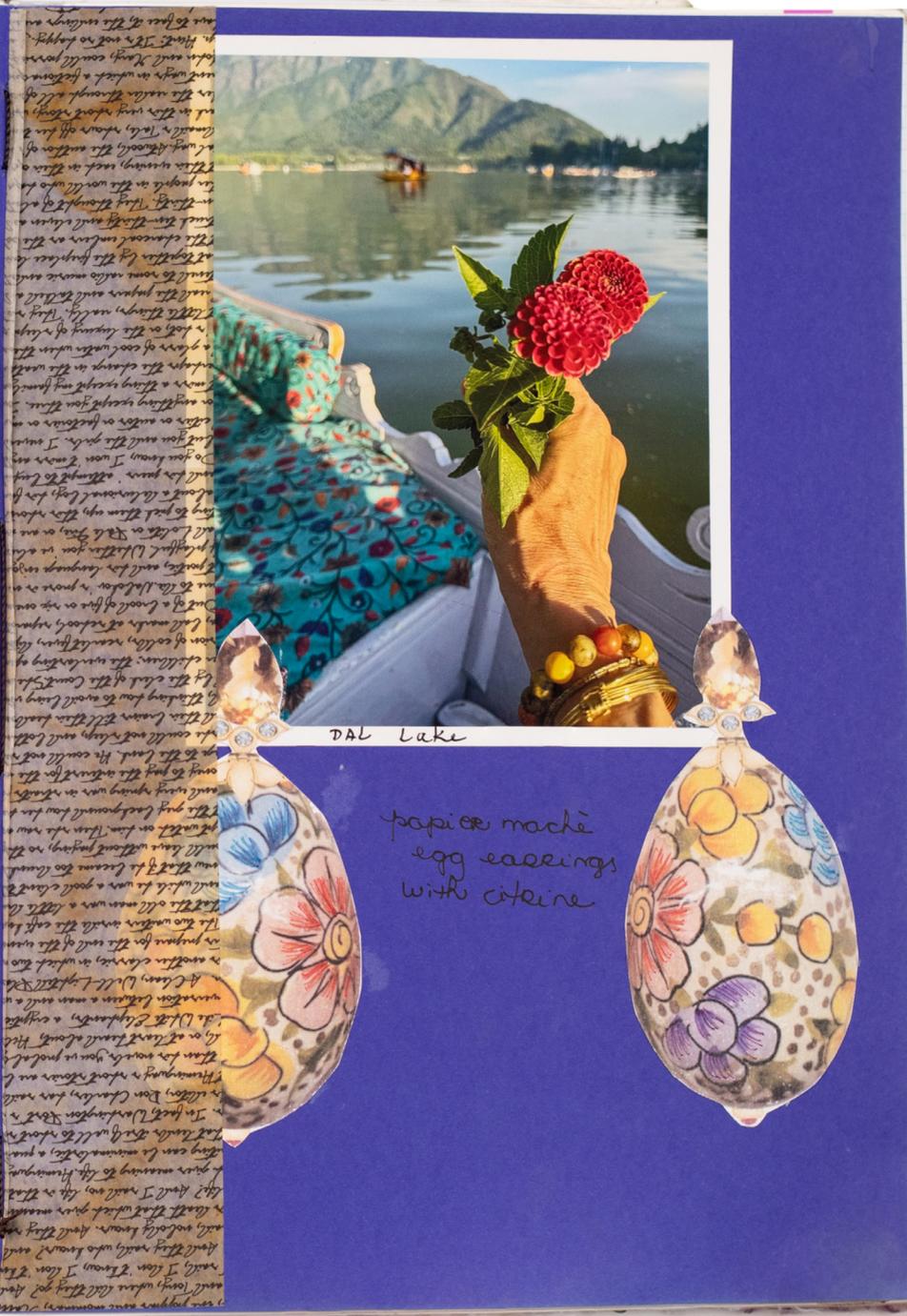
In the 13th century, the Indo-Persian poet and scholar Amir Khusrau accurately described Kashmir as “heaven on Earth,” largely referring to its natural beauty. It was also around this time that the first Persian craftsmen settled in this verdant valley, further beautifying it with their unique arts and crafts. In 1840, an enterprising descendant of these early settlers established a shop offering the finest papier mâché furniture, jewelry, and bric-a-brac—thus beginning a tradition that would be passed down through generations.



*Silvia Furmanovich
during a trip to Kashmir in 2025*

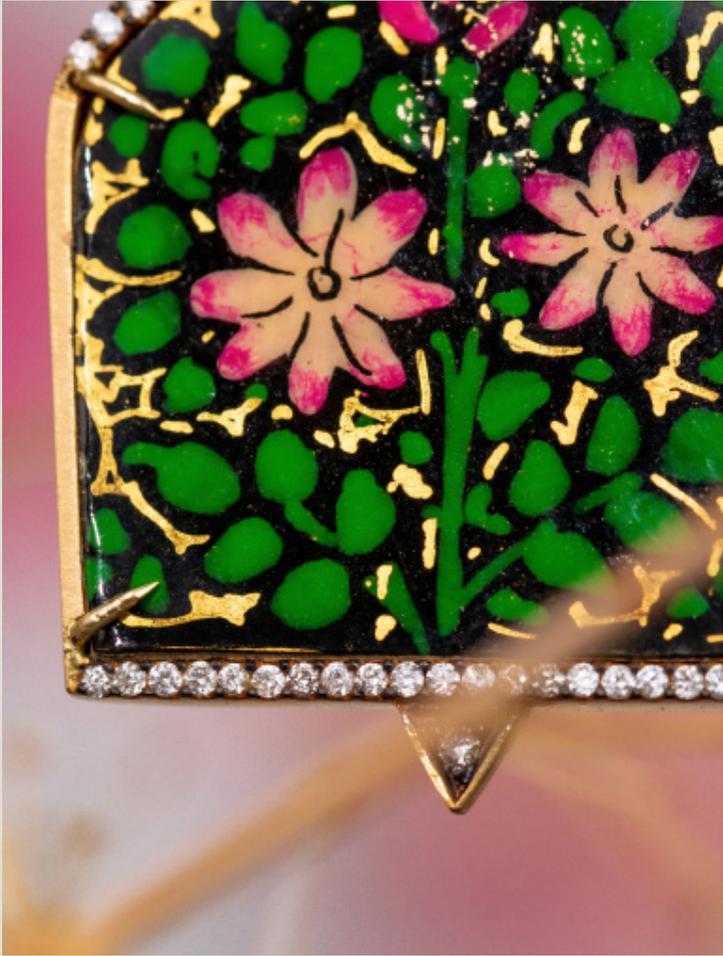
The papier mâché technique in Kashmir is a traditional and highly refined art from that dates back to the 14th century introduced by Persian artists during the reign of Sultan Zain-ul-abidin. In Kashmir this craft is known as "Ker-i-munaggash or Sakhtsazi and is used to create beautifully hand painted decorative objects like boxes, vases, trays and bowls.

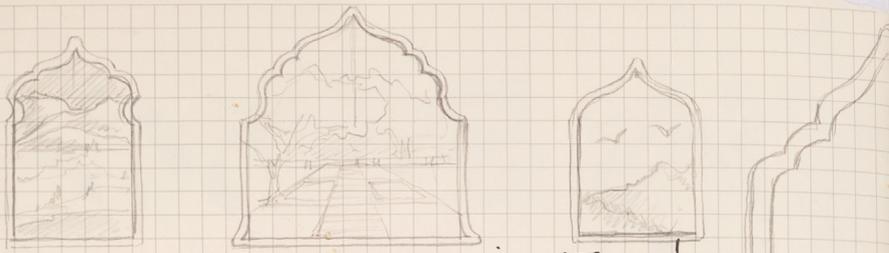
- recycled paper is soaked in water for days then pounded into a pulp.
- the pulp is mixed with cloth, rice straw and glue and molded over clay or wooden forms.
- once dry the mold is cut open removed and the surface is smoothed and joined with glue and paper layers.
- It is then sun dried and polished using stones and baked in a kiln the dried and polished object is coated with a base color and decorated with a painting



DAL Lake

papier mâché egg earrings with citrine





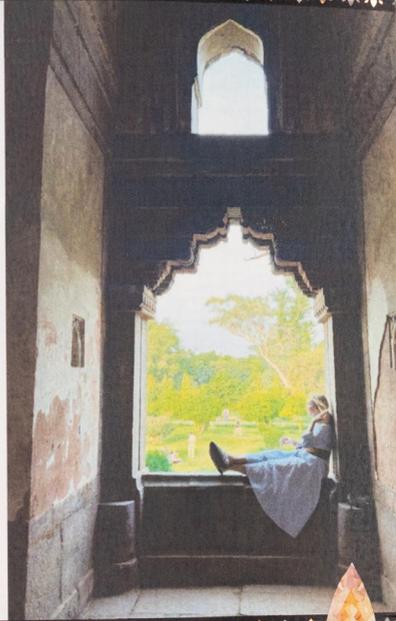
windows inspiration



PAPER MACHE
Flat Cut-Outs



Paper Mache earrings with citrine, rubies,
diamonds and 18k yellow gold



paper mache earrings
with rubies and citrine
cut in the shape of a
window.



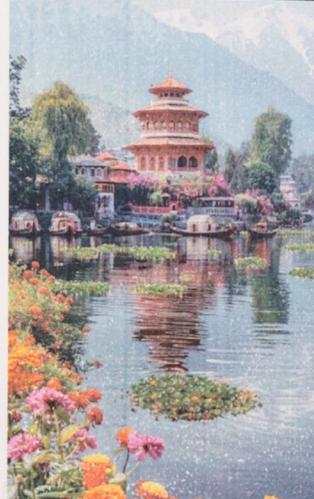
Papier mache box



work of art.



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Marquay Vase

~~Papier~~

marquay vase



A finished papier mâché product is the culmination of two distinct art forms, made using the *sakhtsaz* and *naqash* methods respectively. The former refers to the creation of the artifact's structure, while the latter refers to the painting of its surface. Paper, water, cloth, and glue are used to shape the object into delicate forms such as jewelry, boxes, or other items. The traditional paint is made from mineral, organic, or vegetable bases, enhanced with gold and silver tints to add luster and sophistication. A thin layer of butter paper separates the object from the paint to protect and preserve its quality.



*Fine squirrel hair brushes
are used to craft fine details*



Working closely with Kashmir's most esteemed papier-mâché artisans, Furmanovich developed a process to adapt this heritage craft to the demands of fine jewelry, preserving its intricate beauty while elevating it with precious settings and materials.

"I try to emphasize that this is not just my idea and my work. It is the collective creativity of many people coming together. When a person buys a piece of my jewelry, it carries the story of all the people involved in its creation."

- Silvia Furmanovich

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