

Lisa A.

Lisa's journey with the Festival of Trees has been nothing short of magical. In 2021, she first started contributing her breathtaking cut paper designs and deservedly claimed the coveted Best of Show title, leaving Festival attendees in awe of her creativity and talent.

The tree was a testament to her vision of creating enchanting scenes that captivate and challenge the imagination: "The first tree I did for Festival was made from all paper (except for the tomato trellis I used inside for support). The idea was that all of the scenes on the tree were art projects that *anyone* could do." Inspired by the grand panoramas found in museums, Lisa's passion for crafting new worlds with paper is extraordinary. By utilizing many types of paper crafts: cut paper, paper clay, paper mâché, trees made from cones, loops and cardboard, paper garlands, origami characters, woven paper and more, she is uniquely able to tell a wonderful story through her trees and tabletop displays. Raised by American illustrator and graphic designer, Raymond Ameijide, Lisa discovered the art of paper crafting at a very young age. Lisa has continued her father's innovative paper sculpting techniques using 3-D layering with cutouts of vibrant colored papers to bring her whimsical caricatures to life.



In 2022, Lisa crafted two tabletop decorations and a wreath for the Festival of Trees. The heartwarming "Come on Pop, Higher" design earned her a well-deserved Honorable Mention. This charming decoration depicted a delightful mouse family, with Father Mouse lovingly lifting one of his children to place the star atop the tree.



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For this year's Festival "The Magic Continues..." Lisa has begun a new project featuring another endearing mouse family who reside within an enchanted tree stump. As if peering into a fairy tale, the tree stump opens up to reveal a world of festive revelry both inside and out. Outside, mice engage in snowy fun with snowball fights, caroling, and snow angels, while indoors others are baking cookies, pies and cakes. Mischievous little mice have even started indulging in the icing before it reaches the cakes! Look for scenes with the mice unwrapping presents by a roaring fire, dancing to music, and adorning tiny trees that have sprouted from the stump's "roof." Every inch of the display will be brimming with life and wonder. Lisa's creations continue to evolve as she breathes life into each scene: "As I start making the figures, the scenes may change and that's the fun part. One idea sparks another so change is good!"



Lisa's dedication to the Festival of Trees goes beyond her passion for crafting artistry. For her, this event marks the joyous beginning of the Christmas season, a time when creativity and giving intersect to make a difference in countless lives. "The Festival of Trees starts off the

Christmas holiday season in a wonderful and creative way. I hope everyone who is thinking of creating a tree, will! Being a part of the Festival of Trees is a truly wonderful way of making a difference for so many people who benefit from this event."

