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Mere Phantoms and Shadow Play

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I had the opportunity to connect with Jaimie Robson and Maya Ersan of Mere Phantoms. These two artists are creating powerful and captivating work and which takes the experience of shadow play to a whole new level. Based in Montreal, the artistic duo combines intricate paper cutouts, drawings, videos and animation to create place-specific installations and performances. By inviting audiences to participate in creating and animating the work, Mere Phantoms designs immersive environments that challenge traditional artist-audience relationships. Integral to Mere Phantoms practice is the way they draw on intuitive and playful participation by their public audiences.



Maya Ersan



Jaimie Robson

Tell us a little about your paper craft and when it began.

The current installation work we are doing is something that evolved over the past few years of working together. It grew out of our shared appreciation for animation, puppetry, and early cinema, combined with playful time in the studio experimenting with light, shadow, and projection. We both love working in the tactile realm, with our hands, and with our bodies, and enjoy the immediacy of paper as well as the aweinspiring effect we can create with light and shadow.

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