

# MADISON NEIGHBORS

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Meet Dani, Cindy  
& Family

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# Local Artist, Babette Bloch

By Jackson Paris • Photos by Madelene McHale and Brian Wendler

With the recent renovation of Madison's Scranton Library, we have not only built a beautiful new building, we have added fantastic new works of art. One of my favorites is a stainless steel sculpture of magnificent blooming flowers by Connecticut artist Babette Bloch

Babette Bloch is a pioneer in the use of laser cut and water jet stainless steel to create evocative works of art. Her sculptures explore form and the interplay between object and light. The unique surface of her works reflect their environment, expanding the ways in which stainless steel is used in contemporary art.

Bloch received both classical and modern training at the University of California, Davis, studying with legendary artist Wayne Thiebaud, Robert Arneson, and Manuel Neri. Her personal style embraces her eclectic taste, her sometimes – whimsical visions, her pleasure in aesthetics, and her technical curiosity.

Bloch's practice includes site-specific one of a kind public artworks and limited-edition sculptures. Drawing on several traditions in American Art, she creates work that touch on modernist abstraction, the cut-outs and collage found in pop art, and the long-standing practice of storytelling in art.

Bloch creates paper and wire maquettes developed from her refined black and white drawings. The paper models allow Bloch to keep aesthetics and structure in mind while switching between 2D and 3-D visualizations of her work. The maquettes are further refined and adjusted in stainless steel. For public and large scale private works structural engineers are consulted. A computer-driven laser beam cuts the drawings out of large sheets of stainless steel to her predetermined scale. She wields a hand held grinder, thinking of it as a paintbrush creating an illusion of dimensionality in each cutout. Bloch directs the twisting, bending, welding and refining in the completion of all her large scale works of art.

Come to the library, welcome spring and this new work of art.



*Babette Bloch in her studio*



*Babette Bloch & CUT-FLOWERS Sculpture Scranton Library*

For more information you  
can call 203-938-8565 or  
go to [babettebloch.com](http://babettebloch.com)