



**Discourse**  
from the end of the line  
November 2013

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ON THE COVER: A free-form, asymmetrical kite by artist Istvan Bodoczky of Budapest. See page 7 to learn more in "Reviewing Two Decades."

NOVEMBER 2013

DRACHEN FOUNDATION 20TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

From the Editors	3
Correspondence	5
Contributors	6
Reviewing Two Decades BEN RUHE	7
The Wonderment of Scott Skinner ALI FUJINO	16
Comments on a Fearless Leader DRACHEN BOARD AND STAFF	22
Highlights from 20 Years SCOTT SKINNER	33
20 Years of DF, 20 Years of Prism ALI FUJINO	39

Drachen Foundation does not own rights to any of the articles or photographs within, unless stated. Authors and photographers retain all rights to their work. We thank them for granting us permission to share it here. If you would like to request permission to reprint an article, please contact us at [discourse@drachen.org](mailto:discourse@drachen.org), and we will get you in touch with the author.

## FROM THE EDITORS

### EDITORS

Scott Skinner  
Ali Fujino  
Katie Davis

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Skinner  
Martin Lester  
Joe Hadzicki  
Stuart Allen  
Dave Lang  
Jose Sainz  
Ali Fujino

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Bonnie Wright  
Wayne Wilson  
Keith Yoshida

### ADVISORY BOARD

Paul Reynolds

Drachen Foundation  
is a non-profit 501(c)(3)  
corporation devoted to the  
increase and diffusion of  
knowledge about kites  
worldwide.

[WWW.DRACHEN.ORG](http://WWW.DRACHEN.ORG)

*Discourse* is published on the  
Drachen Foundation website several  
times a year and can be downloaded  
free at [www.drachen.org](http://www.drachen.org) (under  
"Browse" > "Articles").

This issue celebrates the Drachen Foundation's 20th year and has led all of us on the Drachen board to reminisce about those 20 years. I recall sitting with trusted friends in Long Beach, Washington and talking about what this foundation might be: an archive, a repository, a source of information, and an instigator of workshops, publications, and kite events. I knew that with Ali Fujino as administrator and Ben Ruhe as a worldwide correspondent, we could do things that no other organization in the world could do. Enthusiastic support of friends like Ed and Bonnie Wright, Bill Lockhart and Betty Street, Wolfgang Schimmelpfennig, Peter Malinski, and Jorgen Moller-Hansen convinced us that we might have a chance.

We have traveled a long and winding road (just like the Fab Four said) to come full circle and become, again, that repository of kite information, only now we have the opportunity to move forward as a virtual organization – one whose website holds encyclopedic kite knowledge, ready to be shared with the world. Our future is on the World Wide Web, and yet we can continue to be a living, breathing, interactive source of kite knowledge. Our site allows kite enthusiasts from around the world to input data into our real and virtual "collections" – photos, historical documents, personal recollections, kite plans. There are no limits to what can be inputted and then permanently archived on the site. While social media like Facebook have made it instantly gratifying to upload images and information, investing a little more time to do the same thing on the Drachen Foundation site gives a donor the assurance that his or her

information is searchable, seen by the worldwide community of kite fliers and educators, and permanently nested into a larger database of like information.

I think the most important aspect of this seemingly fundamental change is that we still will be responsive to the amazing people who walk through our virtual door. We received a letter from noted kitemaker Helen Bushell recently. Helen raised some very interesting points as she took time to look back at a number of the kite treasures in her collection. Taking a very global look at her kites, she saw things she hadn't seen as she acquired them: a series of Matsutani kites whose images were slightly altered from woman to pig, or the mostly male faces adorning Japanese kites and their similarity to warlike figures painted on Thai kites. She says, "My Japan kites can be arranged ancient to modern. I reverse them and find four cut-out-of-paper-and-rearranged designs that look like the ancient Longevity/Fertility symbol that I brought back from the Dao Monastery on Mt. Taishan back in 1984.... It is like a hook, or open mouth, with a morsel (egg?) and says (sic) something else in another direction."

Helen's final thought is the one I like the most. She asks, "Are any other kite people reading their collections?" We are at the point, now, that it is time for us to read our collections, to mine for nuggets of information, to add forgotten stories, to bring to life personalities, and to ensure that our twenty-year legacy continues with active service to the world kiting community and any who come to it.

Scott Skinner  
Board President  
Drachen Foundation

## CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you for the article on Lois Card [in *Discourse* issue 14]. We had many a great laughs together. I still have the little hand painted (by Lois) box cutter she gave me in Junction years ago. I have been thinking about her for the longest time and now I know why.

KATHY GOODWIND  
Seattle, Washington

An acknowledgement, apology, and correction: It was our oversight in neglecting to properly credit all the images used in Frits Sauvé's article appearing in *Discourse* issue 14. All the images appearing on pages 32, 35, 36, 37, 39, and 40 should have been credited to Thom Shanken/David Tuttle and were used and modified without their knowledge or consent. It should further be stated that the image appearing on page 46 should have been credited to: © Christie's Images Limited 2010.

ALI FUJINO  
Drachen Foundation

# CONTRIBUTORS

ALI FUJINO  
*Seattle, Washington*

From work at the Smithsonian to her present status as Director of Advancement for the Alaska Wilderness League, Fujino rounds out her 20 years with the Drachen Foundation by serving on Drachen's Board of Directors.



Drachen Foundation

BEN RUHE  
*Gloucester, Massachusetts*

A powerhouse professional journalist and editor of Drachen's beloved *Kite Journal*, Ruhe has reported on the best and brightest of his time. His travels teach us the important lesson: "If you don't go, you might miss it!"



Drachen Foundation

SCOTT SKINNER  
*Monument, Colorado*

A former Air Force instructor pilot, Drachen's board president has flown and designed kites for three decades. Today, Skinner is known as a world class, visionary kite artist.



Drachen Foundation

# REVIEWING TWO DECADES

Ben Ruhe



Simon Bond

Joe Hadzicki and others participate in a mega-fly to commemorate the Rev Kite's 20th Anniversary in Bristol, England.

A hobby and sport in the West and a religious celebration in the East, kiting became international in the last two decades through increased global travel and because the internet made verbal connections fast and easy. Intelligent patronage by the Drachen Foundation helped these developments significantly. Founded and led by Scott Skinner, Drachen has compiled a vast amount of archival printed information on kites, collected fine kites, educated people about the subject, sponsored workshops by experts, staged exhibits, supported research, collected photo documentation, and created publications. Now with all the information safely placed in manageable digital formats, Drachen has taken a giant step forward. It has made everything freely available via the World Wide Web. Following is a sample of the wonderful world of kite people and events of the first 20 years of the existence of Drachen, as documented in its wide-ranging *Journal*.

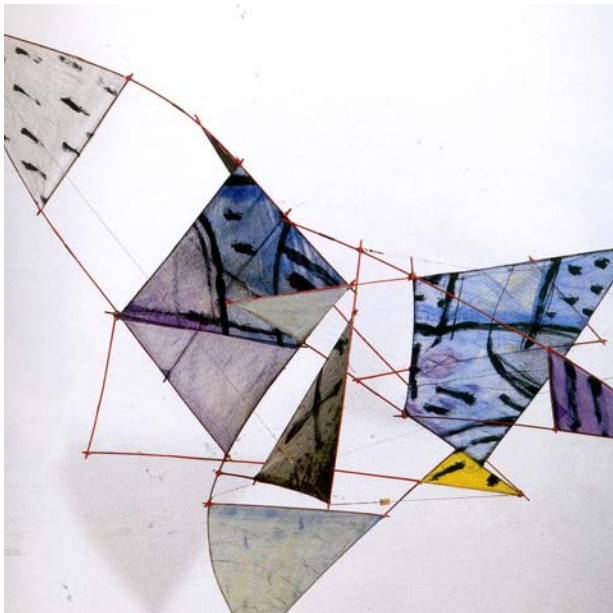
## MORE FUN THAN PLAYING IN SAND

An inventor by profession and kite flier as hobbyist, Joe Hadzicki of San Diego woke up one day with a kite design fully formed in his mind. He went to his workshop, built it, and took it right out to fly. On this first trial it performed beautifully. The Revolution was born. Of course known as The Rev, the kite is controlled by four lines, two for each hand. It spins on its axis, or goes left or right. Most notably, it can be put in a screeching dive, stopped a foot above the ground, then flown backwards up into the sky. Although tricky to control, it immediately became the

outstanding new kite of the late 20th century.

#### PAINTINGS THAT FLY

A noted artist in his native Budapest, Istvan Bodoczky showed colorful asymmetrical paintings in an art gallery. They were highly irregular, free-form works on paper framed by bamboo strips. In an excess of hubris, he told a critic he could attach flying lines to the paintings and fly them as kites. Challenged to do so, he surprised even himself by succeeding beyond expectation. A new kind of art kite was born. Bodoczky quickly learned how to balance each kite for flight and when word got out about his work he soon was being invited all over the world by kite festivals to show off his strange, wonderful aerial originals.



Drachen Foundation

A free-form, asymmetrical kite by artist Istvan Bodoczky of Budapest. A new kind of art kite was born.

#### ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU CRY

A designer by training, Anna Rubin saw kitemaking one day and joined in. The result was so successful her second creation made

it to the cover of a major kite magazine. A southern Austrian, Rubin seemingly achieves the impossible – her highly original kites make people emotional. Her personal message is so direct and strong, some have burst into tears. As an example, a Rubin kite symbolizing lovers is united by a flurry of red lipstick kisses at the point of jointure. The two joined circles have protruding sticks as a symbol of protection. Its message is immediately clear. As well as a masterpiece of creation, it flies well in addition. “I make a kite to music or poetry,” she says, “I express my emotion. Are my kites feminine? Yes, I can’t imagine a man making them.”



Drachen Foundation

One of Austrian artist Anna Rubin’s highly original kites. “I make a kite to music or poetry,” she says.

#### MYSTERY ON HIGH

Curt Asker is a Swede living in the south of France who gained world fame by representing his country at the highly prestigious Venice art biennial. His field is illusion – kites suspended from kites flying far above, indoor creations that hang from the ceiling and move in faint wind currents,



casting elusive shadows. Under certain light, the shadow is visible but the object not. His great invention is a visual double take: a big X in the sky that marks a spot. Or does it? The X form is see-through, with sky and clouds visible only. The kite actually is the border of the X, blending into the scene. The creation is spare, strange, original, somehow profound.



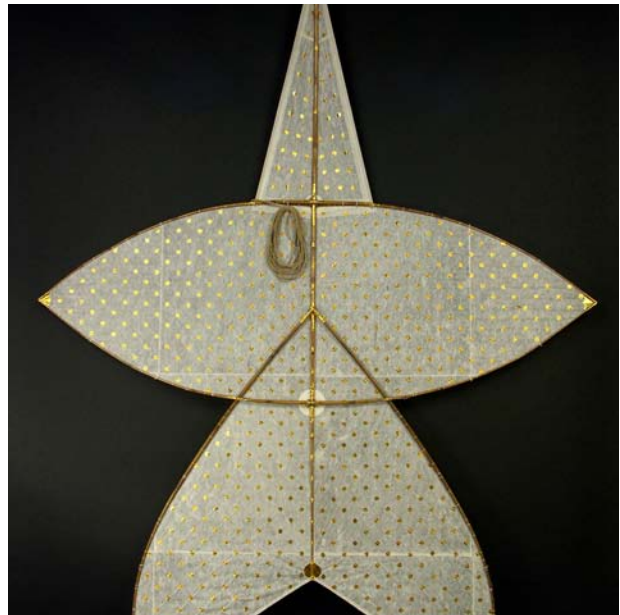
Ben Ruhe

Artist Curt Asker's "X marks the spot in the sky" kite. "I work with the sky," he has said, "I don't impose on it."

## SKY WARS

Kite flying is an old, popular sport in Thailand, so much so that a giant tract next to the royal palace is designated Kite Field. King Bumiphal, in his younger days, was an active participant. As the hot weather approaches, the monsoon wind becomes perfect for flying during the late afternoons of the month of February, and people turn out in droves daily to watch traditional warfare in the sky. A well organized game pits masculine *chulas* against female *pakpaos*. Each tries to down the other, with the former using large size and weight and the latter small size but clever wiles to

score. (Surprisingly, the *pakpaos* win a majority of the jousts.) Teams are sponsored by local businesses and flying is done over the years on a traditional father and son basis. A winner in each category is declared at the end of the season. Teams are big and well organized with as many as 25 players on a side. And they are ruthless. Spectators can get run down by a squad of racing boys carrying a pulley to haul a hooked rival down to the grass. All of this is accompanied by shouting, sirens, bugle blasts, and loud gambling yells. Competition ends each day when a sudden sunset occurs. No worries. The teams and crowds will be back tomorrow.



Drachen Foundation

A traditional Thai chula kite. Kite jousts pit large, masculine chulas against smaller, female pakpaos.

## THE PETER LYNN PHENOMENON

Peter Lynn of Ashburton, New Zealand makes and flies his mega demonstration kites worldwide. By now, he has racked up more air miles than some veteran Boeing 747 pilots. He particularly shows off his world's largest kite, so powerful it is anchored by a loaded dump truck. Nobody

can top him, because he simply attaches added wing material to his mattress-like creation to make it ever larger. Not surprisingly, this 75-by-120-foot giant is sponsored by Arab oil money. Lynn also owns the oldest known kite in existence, found under a floor in a Dutch house being razed. It has been accurately dated to the end of the 18th century. Ever one to promote new kiting, Lynn is foremost in pioneering kite propulsion for boats and surfboards. At this stage, this sport is thrilling stuff to watch but only for the brave to practice. A gust, for example, can lift a boat halfway out of water.



Peter Lynn Kites

The first flight of Peter Lynn's Mega Ray demonstration kite, the largest kite in the world.

#### SAVING TRADITION

As the 75th generation descendent of the sage Confucius and also a famous kitemaker, Kong Xiang Ze was a doubly marked man when Chairman Mao declared old traditions were to be destroyed during the Chinese Cultural Revolution begun in the mid-1960s. "I was beaten seven times and repeatedly publicly humiliated by Red Guards," Kong recalls. "My property was

trashed. I had no work." Helped by family, Kong somehow survived and eventually saw the political climate change. By the late 1970s, he was able to make and sell kites again and live a family life. He began to be famous again as well. Now in his 80s, he lives with his son and grandson in an isolated ex-commune north of Beijing – still making a variety of kites, especially the beautiful Beijing swallow. "The evil days are long gone," he says; "I've become objective." He smiles.



Ben Ruhe

Kong Xing Ze (left) is patriarch of a kitemaking family. Son Kong Ling Min and grandson Bing Zhang are great masters too.

#### MOST BEAUTIFUL

Without question, the world's most beautiful kite is the *wau* of Malaysia, with its beautiful shape and jewel-like pattern. Made in the impoverished, back-of-beyond state of Kelantan, the *wau* kite is well known internationally through its use as a symbol by Air Malaysia. Making one is painstaking work taking weeks. Using a razor-sharp homemade knife, a stiff piece of colored paper is cut into the shape of an intricate kite sail, then a pattern cut into it. This cutout is pasted to the original backed

frame. Next, another piece of paper in the same shape but different color is cut into a different pattern and pasted atop the first cutout. Subsequent layers, up to eight and all in different colors, give the creation a detailed, very colorful appearance. Images are always abstractions, as dictated by the Muslim Koran. Ismail bin Jusoh, a master, says, "Kites are beautiful, challenging to make and fly. They can even make an old man like me feel young again." His granddaughter, age 12, bookends the business. A math whiz, she keeps the books.



Drachen Foundation

The beautiful Malaysian wau kite is painstakingly made from many layers of colored paper over weeks.

### BETTY AND BILL IN ACTION

Enamored of kites and reasonably solvent, Texas Tech professors Betty Street and bill lockhart decided to hold a kite workshop at an unused university football camp in the backwoods of West Texas. Keeping things as simple as possible to hold down costs, they drew an enthusiastic crowd and when they realized they had broken even, they decided to do it again. Thus was the annual Junction meeting established. When they

received patronage from the Drachen Foundation, they began inviting foremost figures from kiting around the world to join in and teach and the fame of Junction grew. Facilities were open around the clock, so it was not unknown for fliers to be out at 3am testing their kites under the West Texas moon, under the watchful eye of armadillos. Breakfasts ran to grits and gravy, to maintain state tradition for good food. As Drachen president Scott Skinner observes, fliers came initially to make a kite but soon grasped that Junction was really all about learning and good fellowship.



Drachen Foundation

bill lockhart and Betty Street, the Texas Tech professors who founded the annual Junction Kite Retreat.

### STOOPING TO CONQUER

Dr. David Scarbrough recalls the very day of his inspiration. Up in the air doing parasailing on July 10, 1994, this avid falconer realized he was actually flying when strapped to a kite and that he could apply an insight he had just had to his sport. Scarbrough, a dentist from Fairfax, Missouri, reasoned that he could solve one of the great problems of the age-old, little changed

sport of falconry: how to get his low-flying peregrine bird high enough to make a dramatic and loud dive or stoop. He would simply dangle food from a kite and take it up to 1,000 feet, the hungry bird to follow. There was no point to going higher; the hawk would be out of sight. The stoop of this bird is high drama. Reaching a well documented speed of up to 200 miles an hour, the diving peregrine becomes the fastest bird on the globe. It is going so fast it just strikes a pigeon as it whizzes by. Grabbing the bird at that speed would rip off a claw. Knowledge of Scarbrough's new training method ricocheted around the world. Scarbrough looks back on his insight with great pride. He realizes he has made an authentically profound contribution to the sport he loves.



Eric Keith

Dr. David Scarbrough, an avid falconer, used an insight from parasailing to improve falcon training with kites.

## TOUCH OF FAME

Her grandfather (Henri Matisse) and stepfather (Marcel Duchamp) were two of the most famous artists of the 20th century, so Jackie Matisse needed to find her own art

niche, which she did – kites. A tall redhead. Jackie was raised in New York City and is more American than French, although she now lives in a spacious compound near Paris, complete with lots of highly valuable art – paintings by her grandfather, ready-mades by Duchamp, and an assortment of other choice work by famous friends of the two. Duchamp's chess gear, including table and timing clock, are on view. Although divorced, when traveling she sticks with her married name to avoid the complications of fame. Matisse makes and flies kites striking for their long tails. She is also very experimental, having flown underwater. Some of her small kites grace bottles of water, where they sway with gentle motion. She has even achieved convincing computer mockups. She has taken kite art into the computer age.



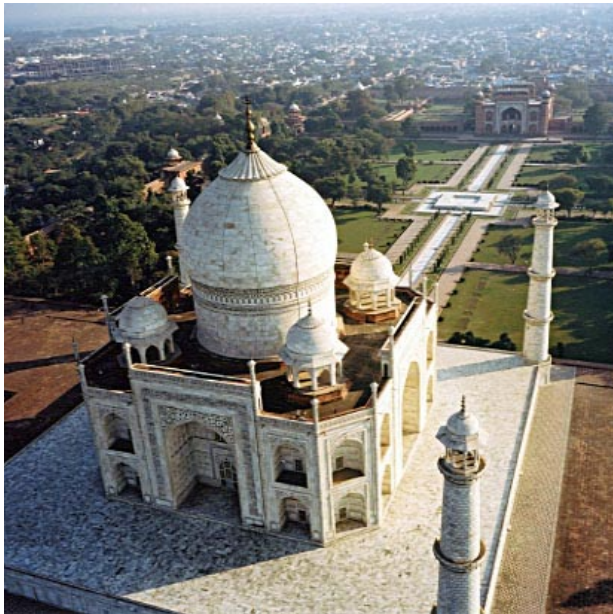
Ben Ruhe

Artist Jackie Matisse demonstrates her concept of kite tails flown underwater with paper suspended in glass bottles.

## PHOTOS FROM ON HIGH

Cheap, low maintenance, highly personal, unobtrusive, flyable in conditions that would defeat competition such as balloons,

the kite is a wonderful platform for photography. By acquiring several different kites for different wind conditions, the photographer can operate at any time and virtually anywhere. Nicholas Chorier, a high spirited Frenchman from Montpellier, has long been a convert and has turned out dazzling coffee table images. He has traveled the world and documented some off-limit subjects. Shooting the Taj Mahal in India, he got himself arrested for endangerment. The next time he took to the air there, he was a paid employee of the local tourist commission. That's the way things go with him. Chorier has particularly loved India for its rich and diverse scenery and crowds in the hundreds of thousands for a festival, of which there are many. Kites attract numerous fans but reward few with paid employment. Chorier is one who has figured out how to do something he loves while making a living at it.



Nicholas Chorier

ABOVE: A kite aerial photograph taken by Nicholas Chorier in India. RIGHT: A whimsical George Peters kite.

### THE ONE-MAN BAND

When George Peters of Boulder, Colorado sets up his whimsical monster creations

(and other kite stuff) at a kite festival, within minutes it appears six people are at work and not just one. "How can any one person carry so much gear?" is the question viewers ask. Where does all this colorful flying junk come from, this controlled chaos?

In a roundabout way, Peters himself provides the answer. Asked in a questionnaire his interests (other than kiting), Peters produced some accidental, revealing poetry. He responded: "I like: the color blue (as in the sky), reading, writing, but not arithmetic, waking up, looking up, long walks under the trees, sitting on rocks, seeing how long I can hold my breath under water, painting things to make them look different, making things better and better. I like my cat and my dog, interesting rock formations, interesting architecture, travel, cloud formations out the window seat, making fun of other people's walks, primitive weaponry (especially blowguns and boomerangs), lead animals, old toys, the eternal quest for the perfect pen, miniature things, odd postcards, sailing, drawing, doodling, making useless things, finding useless things."



Drachen Foundation

## KITES FILLING THE SKY

*Makar Sankranti* is a Hindu Indian festival in January celebrated all over the country by the flying of kites. This being India, to say it draws crowds is a real understatement. In Jaipur alone, in the north of the nation, an estimated million people climb onto the flat roofs of the desert community to party and to fly their little fighters. The kites have glass shards glued to the line so they cut the line of any other kite they encounter in the sky. At a recent festival, one determined flier had 75 kites stacked up beside him, ready to go. These paper kites are cheap and easily made and he obviously expected to cut and be cut very frequently during the long day. One young medical intern politely watched his revered doctor father elaborately prepare and launch a fighter. The son promptly launched too and slashed his father's line. "Oh, excuse me," said the son.



Drachen Foundation

In India, kite fighters fly from roofs during the festival of Makar Sankranti, cutting each other out of the sky.

There are so many kites downed that trees are draped with them, looking like Western Christmas trees. A less agreeable element is

the deaths. Although the kites cost only pennies, children still can't afford them so they recklessly pursue cut kites falling to earth by jumping from rooftop to rooftop. Some of the leaps fall short. Downed kites also slay motorcyclists when lines drape themselves across the necks of the speeding drivers. Deaths reached more than 100 in the city, as reported next day in the local paper. Sliced fingers were in the thousands. That's Makar Sankranti for you.

## STAINED GLASS SKY WINDOWS



Drachen Foundation

The *barrilietes gigantes*, or giant kites, of Sumpango, Guatemala look like stained glass windows in the sky.

One of the great sights in the global kite world is the giant kites of Sumpango, a Guatemalan village – stained glass windows in the sky, as they have been called. Taking weeks or months to construct from many layers of colored tissue paper with backing, they are on view just one day – the Day of the Dead on November 1. Graves of the dead are refurbished by families in the morning, then kites displayed and flown from a nearby soccer field. The religious rite quickly evolves into a village festival,

drawing many thousands of spectators, most of them locals. While paying honor to the dead, the kites these days tend to make something of a political statement as well. Built by young volunteer Maya Indians, they have messages that protest the repressive treatment of the Mayas over decades by the ruling Ladinos. The kites are so big – up to 40 feet wide (bigger than that is forbidden) – most remain unflown because of the safety factor, although smaller kites dot the sky to show that even in calm these round kites will perform. Edged by active volcanoes, the soccer field develops a picnic atmosphere with talk, food, drinks, carnival rides, nonstop music, and of course the kites. It is altogether a brief but memorable celebration. ♦

# THE WONDERMENT OF SCOTT SKINNER

Ali Fujino



Drachen Foundation

Scott Skinner pictured in India with one of his festival kites, a 10 foot by 9 foot ripstop nylon owl.



Like all stories, there is a beginning and an end. This one has a definite beginning, and hopefully there is no end.

In our 20th year anniversary, we wanted to celebrate those things in our history which made Drachen special. For me, it is one person, Scott Skinner.

I don't really know much about his past, other than he had a wonderfully happy childhood growing up in the small town of Raton, New Mexico. His father was a "country" lawyer, and his mother worked hard to bring up four children. Both contributed to giving them the support and foundation to find their place in the world.

For Scott, his place started with entry into the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was chosen to be trained as one of America's military best, a pilot. It was here he graduated and continued a life in the Air Force as a flight instructor. Along with building his career, he built his family, marrying and having three children. During his time in the Air Force, he found interest and relaxation in making kites and learned the properties of what makes them fly.

This pastime turned to more of a passion, a focus beyond just hobby. As his family grew, his interest in kiting grew too, and he found kite communities where he could easily become a member.

Scott's personality explains how he learned so much about kites. He has the ability to concentrate on a subject area, gathering information with a single-minded focus. He is patient as he learns by trial and error, working with his hands by "tinkering" and making kites.

But what good was all this knowledge if it couldn't be shared? Scott's thoughtfulness

gave an answer to this question, and through his generosity, he began to share and gift what he learned with others. In Scott's way, he took this generosity to the furthest extent, by creating the Drachen Foundation online website, the perfect vehicle to share all his passion and knowledge about kites with everyone in the world. A tall order, but he did it.

#### HOW DID HE DO THIS?

It didn't start overnight. First, he needed to collect the kites to study them. Then he visited the cultures and countries to learn and document their kite history in person. It was on one of these visits that I first met him, on a David and Dorothea Checkley tour of China. Our meeting was hilarious and magic, and I became one of the many people who wanted to know more about kites.

I found Scott to be the perfect ambassador for kites, the only person who covered all the disciplines of the subject.

Two years after our China encounter, I received a call from Scott: "Do you remember me?"

My goodness, yes! He asked if he could come to Seattle and talk about something to do with kites.

Sounded good to me.

I was charmed to find that his quest still continued. That focus with kites was now more intense than ever. We agreed to start a foundation, which he would fund and I would work with him to develop.

It was at this point I began to know a person with incredible skills – from photo documenting, research and writing books,

*continued on page 21*



Drachen Foundation



Drachen Foundation

From Ali Fujino's list of the 10 Best Things About Scott Skinner, #10: "Lover of good food, drink, and partying," and #5: "Having tested all concepts of tethered flight." See page 21 for Ali's full list.

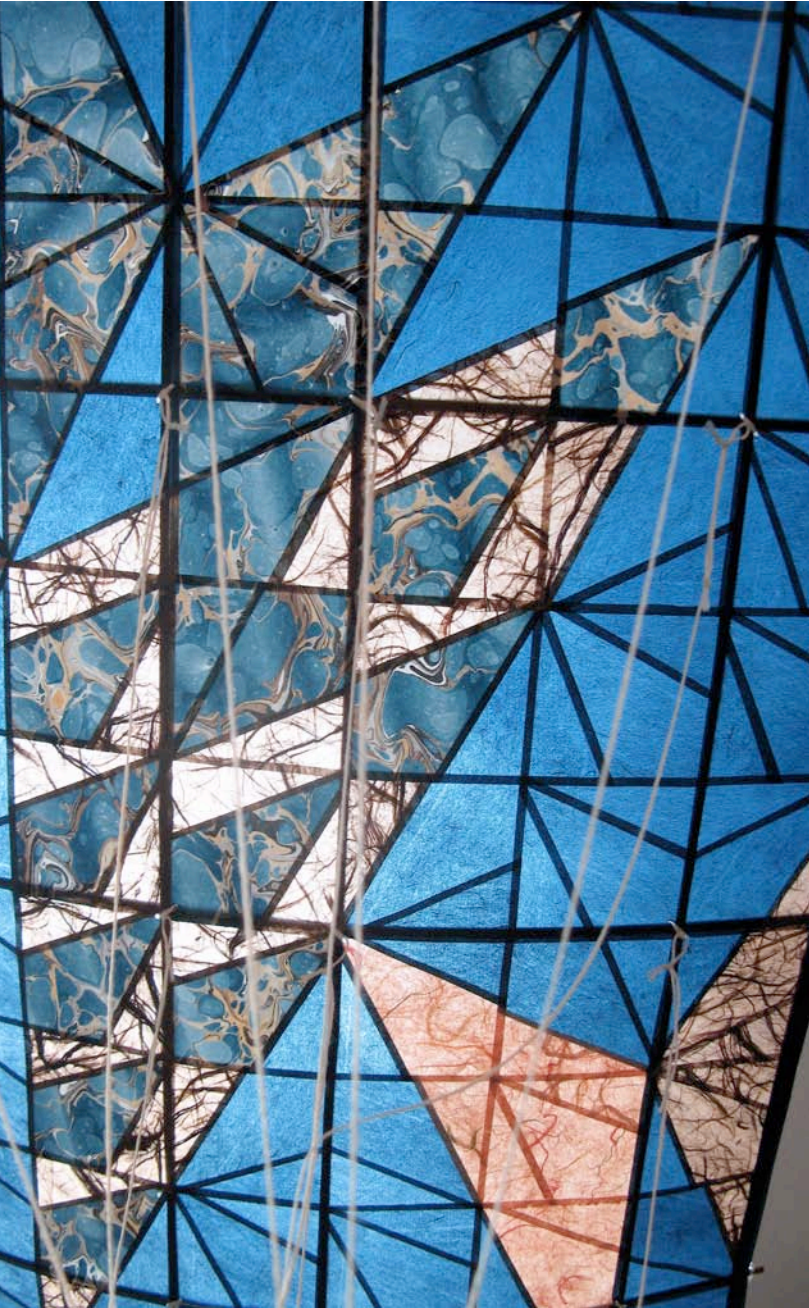


Drachen Foundation



Drachen Foundation

#7: "A fabulous, professionally trained ballroom dancer,"  
and #8: "Meticulous, skilled craftsman from sewn kites of  
ripstop to traditional materials of paper and bamboo."



Drachen Foundation



Drachen Foundation

#1: "A fabulous fine artist. Scott is a natural. His kites are works of fine contemporary art," and #4: "A friend indeed" (pictured at right with Martha Eheringer of the Mingei International Crafts Museum).

to curating exhibitions with kites, and teaching what he knew to any age group, young or mature. This was a renaissance man who was not afraid to give so much time and effort to bring kites to everyone. It was infectious.

#### LEAVE NO KITE UNKNOWN

For the last 20 years, Scott has led the call to find out about kites. He has done it all, and done it well.

I think, for me, there isn't a day that goes by that I am not thankful for being a part of this personal quest. I cherish the 20 years that I have been able to work with an individual who is so direct and easy in his tasks, who has never lost sight of his vision, who isn't afraid of hard work, and who has generously financed the work to complete our 20 year mandate, a gift to the world: digital Drachen, a resource accessible to anyone in the world, no matter where or who they are.

Scott Skinner, what a wonderful legacy to leave the world. ♦

#### 10 BEST THINGS ABOUT SCOTT SKINNER

1. A fabulous fine artist. It has always been a mystery to me how an untrained person could be a true artist. Scott is a natural. His kites are works of fine contemporary art. (As a person who is professionally trained and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts, I know this is true.)
2. One of the BEST "pranksters" I have ever met. A person who can find fun and humor in everything he does.
3. A collector of the finest capabilities. Not a "garage" sale client, but a connoisseur of good quality and taste.
4. A friend in need, a friend indeed.
5. One of the best flight theorists. Having researched, experimented, tested, and probed all concepts of tethered flight.
6. One of the best collectors of historical, cultural, and contemporary kites. One of the best collections in the world.
7. A fabulous, professionally trained ballroom dancer.
8. Meticulous, skilled craftsman, from sewn kites of contemporary ripstop to traditional materials of paper and bamboo.
9. Terrific father, grandfather, and owner of golden retrievers...and maybe a mutt or two.
10. Lover of good food, drink, and partying – vegans, glutens, and vegetarians beware!

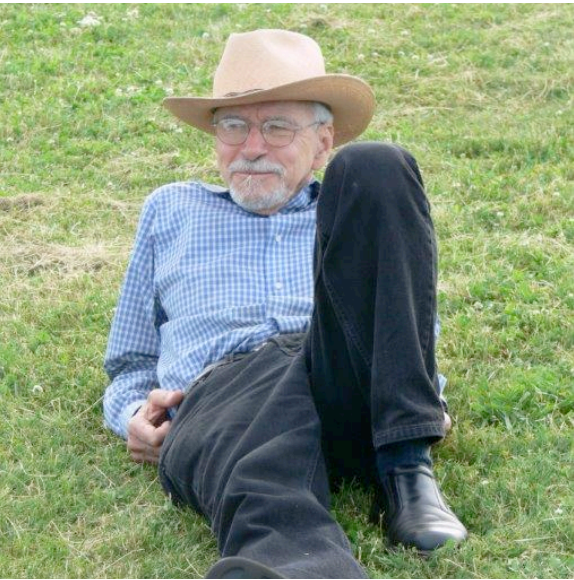
# COMMENTS ON A FEARLESS LEADER

Drachen Foundation Board and Staff



Drachen Foundation

“We have traveled together so often that people think we may be related in some way! Brothers?” - Jose Sainz, pictured here (front left) with Scott Skinner (front right), Matthew Stubbs (back left), and Ali Fujino (back right).



Drachen Foundation

DAVE LANG  
BOARD MEMBER

What kind of person has the vision to doggedly pursue a need to preserve the artifacts of world kiting; surely an idiosyncratic history introvert? Upon joining the Drachen board of directors, I was surprised to find not a stodgy kite geek as our board president, but rather a person with an avid interest in many diverse things, among the most important of which was Scott's penchant for seeking out and indulging in fun! Being a technologist, I was further delighted to find that Scott also was very receptive to the science disciplines of kiting. As I learned more about kites and Scott, I found that he was not only a fun-hog, but was indeed a consummate practitioner of flight. Scott's delightful nature led to interesting board meetings, many frequently accompanied by special adventures to inspire us to greater heights. My association with Scott and Drachen has been a stimulating and valuable addition to my life, for which I have to blame Scott!



Drachen Foundation

STUART ALLEN  
BOARD MEMBER

I met Scott about 20 years ago when I was directing the Davis Art Center gallery in Davis, California. While researching kites for what would become an annual exhibition and kite festival called WindWorks, I found Scott in Colorado and quickly realized that his collection could make short work of my curatorial efforts. He was enthusiastic about the show and before the end of our first conversation he had offered to personally deliver dozens of kites to California *and* help me install the exhibition.

Shortly after that inaugural WindWorks event, Scott invited me to Santa Monica to experience the AKA Convention. His generosity, enthusiasm, and knowledge of kites impressed me to no end, so when he asked me to serve on the board of his recently formed non-profit kite foundation, I readily agreed. The next day he loaned me his rental car so I could make the L.A. gallery rounds. I wrecked it – backed into a column in the hotel's parking garage. Scott

never told me what that little fender bender cost him. (Maybe his super-elite traveler status earns him a bulletproof rental agreement that allows for banged up sedan returns?) He did return the favor though.

Two years later, Scott returned to California with hundreds of Japanese kites for the second installment of WindWorks. Again, his generosity was overwhelming. The two of us spent five days hanging *edo*, *yakko*, *rokkaku*, *sode*, and dozens of *hata*, each angled “just so” in the upper reaches of an atrium space. Not once did he question the work, or question my compulsive tendencies when it comes to gallery installations. He just cut string and tied knots while we chatted about the history of these fine objects. At the end of week, we had a glorious display of kites scattered throughout the Center, a show we hoped would impress the illustrious Japanese kitemaker guests we were flying in for the weekend festival. On Friday afternoon, while I busily finalized details with food vendors and Taiko drummers, Scott headed to the airport to pick up guests in a van borrowed from the Art Center’s board president. An hour later I got the call. He wrecked the van – nothing too serious, just a little payback.



Drachen Foundation

JOSE SAINZ  
BOARD MEMBER

I have a few words I would like to say about my dear friend Scotty.

Scott and I have been friends for the best part of my kite life, which started in 1989. I was introduced to Scott by my good friend and mentor Randy Tom at the AKA Convention in Seaside, Oregon.

Over the years we have traveled together around the world for kite festivals and special projects for the Drachen Foundation. We have traveled together so often that people think we may be related in some way! Brothers? The truth is that we have nourished a close, friendly relationship to the point that we feel we actually may “think as one.” I have learned so much from Scotty about the history of kites, especially our favorite topic of Japanese kites. Scotty



has been my inspiration for making small kites using paper and bamboo. My fascination with new shapes and innovative ideas are a direct result of many late night discussions and mentoring on each other's part. I will forever be gratefully to Scott for his guidance, generosity, leadership and friendship.

JOE HADZICKI  
BOARD MEMBER

How do you bring fun to kiting? This question has been plaguing me ever since I was a kid. Luckily we have friends like Scott to help us out with this kind of problem.

Example one:

One day we were at Scott's house and decided it would be a great day to try paragliding. Other than the fact that it is one of the most dangerous sports in the world and should only be attempted under the close supervision of trained professionals, we figured we'd tie a rope to Scott and fly him like a kite. So Scott, hooked into a paraglider, is on one end of the rope ready to launch, and three of us (names withheld to protect the innocent) are on the other end. We take off like a team of bridled horses with Scott bouncing behind us on tip toes – he's floating a few feet off the ground. Luckily Scott is bigger than the average guy and we are smaller than the average team of horses, which kept Scott low enough to keep from being killed. Another successful outing in the quest to bring fun to kiting!

Example two:

One day we were all in San Diego drinking margaritas and thought it would be a good idea to see if we could build a power station out of a kite. So we hooked up a power kite to an electric generator, bolted it to the back of a truck, and headed down the highway. After blowing out our power indicator light (car headlight hooked up in a series circuit), we figured it would probably be safer to rope it to a stop sign and let the natural wind power the system. The things we do in the name of science.



Drachen Foundation

Example three:

Power kiting out around the dry lake beds near Las Vegas is always an adventure. Scott has a whole collection of power kites that he will gladly share. There's nothing like having a beer or two and shooting across the lake bed around 40 miles an hour, harnessing the power of the wind. We're all just lucky we haven't been taken to the hospital like Peter Lynn (but that's a whole other story!).

But Scott is deeper than just fun and games. I can't think of a better ambassador for the world of kites, supporting the kite community around the world for more than two decades.

The history of kiting will be forever richer due to the years of tireless effort and energy that Scott and his foundation has put into collecting and archiving kiting's treasures for future generations.

It's a tough life but someone has to do it and I can't think of a better buddy than Scott! And did I mention he can dance too!

LAURIE LEAK  
OFFICE OPERATIONS

In the three short years that I have known Scott, I have been amazed at the variety of projects that he has been involved in. Yet within the variety, there have been certain themes that draw his attention, energy, and commitment. I have come to appreciate how he quietly but persistently works in these areas, delivering on the mission of the Drachen Foundation.

Scott works hard to preserve and share kiting history and has embraced technology so that the kiting community and general public have open and ongoing access to "everything kites" now and into the future.

With old friends and new friends, Scott collaborates on an amazing array of projects, which speaks to his openness to try new things, his unending curiosity, and his partnering and inclusive style.



Laurie Leak

Scott has a passion for teaching which is seen in his writings, his workshops, and the delight he takes in teaching the passerby in the park how to fly a kite. He has a soft spot for teachers and has worked hard to provide them with free resources and affordable kite kits.

But what comes to mind first, when I sift through my memories of Scott, is his delightful and sincere enthusiasm for EVERYTHING that is going on around him. When I first met him, he breezed through the door at the Seattle office with his trademark smile and what I came to think of as his expectation for fun. You can see it in the twinkle of his eye when he meets someone new, greets an old friend, or enters a room full of strangers. He asks questions with genuine interest and shares his own stories with humor, and you get the sense that the next adventure is just around the corner. Here's to the next 20 years of adventures!

MARTIN LESTER  
BOARD MEMBER

I first met Scott at the Long Beach Kite Festival in the summer of 1986. I was picked up by Jack van Gilder and stayed with Dave Checkley – two luminaries of the kite world at the time. Little did I know that I was meeting another one in his early days. I also met many other fliers who have made their mark in kite flying, too many to name check them all. However, I have to say it wasn't Scott's kites that I remember, but his quieter, more laid back approach to things, especially compared to some of the others! Having said that, he was there when "beach slammers" and "car dancing" was invented. (You needed to be there!) Since then, the kite world has changed beyond recognition, and Scott's contribution to that has been great and multifarious – The Drachen Foundation being the most notable, as it has become one of the world's best resources for information on anything and everything to do with kites. He has also become one of the world's finest exponents of cutting large pieces of fabric into very small pieces and sewing them back together again! Cheers, Scott. It's been a pleasure.



Drachen Foundation



Courtesy of Paul and Natalie Reynolds

Paul Reynolds, a Drachen advisory board member, and his wife Natalie.

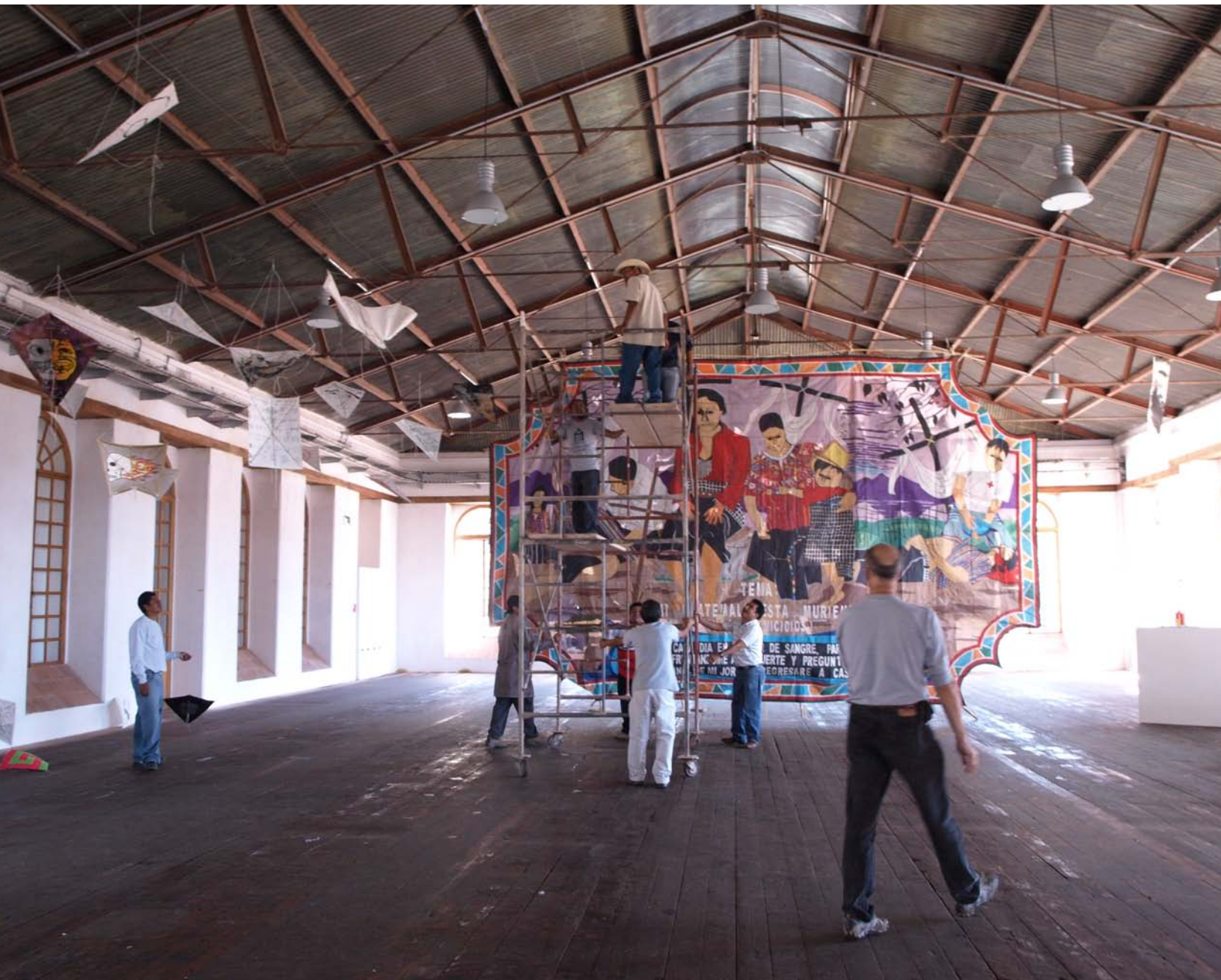
PAUL REYNOLDS  
ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

MAKE NEW FRIENDS, BUT KEEP THE OLD;  
THOSE ARE SILVER, THESE ARE GOLD.  
NEW-MADE FRIENDSHIPS, LIKE NEW WINE,  
AGE WILL MELLOW AND REFINE.  
FRIENDSHIPS THAT HAVE STOOD THE TEST  
TIME AND CHANGE ARE SURELY BEST.

Within kite flying, there are always new people to get to know and new friends to make, and these friendships are great, but the old friends, they are really special.

Natalie and I have been flying kites, firstly individually and then together, for around 25 years. Through that time we have made many friends, but the reality is that few people have been around constantly for the entire period. Skinny Scott (as we call him) has been a constant friend to both of us. Now given we are on different continents, the contact has not necessarily been regular, but it has always been good and we always look forward to seeing him, flying with him, chatting with him, and solving the world's problems with him.

Scott, congratulations on everything you have done with Drachen over the years. You will never know how many lives you have changed. ♦



Drachen Foundation

Over 20 years, Scott Skinner traveled around the world (pictured here in Oaxaca, Mexico) to work on Drachen Foundation projects from kite art exhibits...



Drachen Foundation

...to kite, print, and paper making workshops (pictured here working with Gloria Stuart on an installation of her kite book, *Flight of the Butterfly*)...



Drachen Foundation

...to special projects like kite aerial photography.



Drachen Foundation

Scott Skinner with Japanese kitemaker Yukio Akiyama and his wife, holding Akiyama's *Paper Kite Appliqué Designs* book, published by Drachen. "I can't think of a better ambassador for the world of kites." - Joe Hadzicki



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 20 YEARS

Scott Skinner

It's time to reflect on twenty years of the Drachen Foundation and talk about some of the moments that have made us proud.

Before doing that, let me take a moment to thank three people who made the Foundation what it is. First, my wife Sherry, who agreed so many years ago to let me pursue this passion and then participated in funding the organization through its history. Sherry was nice enough to let me travel the globe while she managed kids, dogs, and household emergencies. Without Sherry's support, the Drachen Foundation would have remained nothing but a dream.

Next, of course, is Ali Fujino, who, while perhaps not the heart and soul of the organization, was its muscle and bones. Ali has done all the detail-oriented tasks that an administrator must do, and has added an energy and focus that would never have been present had I been "in charge." She was the driver of almost every Drachen project, from patches, pins, and t-shirts to collection acquisition to completed publications. Without Ali, there would have been no Foundation.

Finally, Ben Ruhe, with his energy, insight, and child-like curiosity helped to put a public face on the Foundation. With his in-depth interviews, his passion for finding a compelling story, and his attention to detail, Ben wrote countless stories for the Foundation's *Journal*, which brought personalities, events, and traditions to readers worldwide. Ben was the adult supervision of

*continued on page 35*



Paul Reynolds



Drachen Foundation

Now celebrating its 20th anniversary, the Drachen Foundation has sponsored and participated in kite events and exhibits around the world. Here Drachen kites fly in Italy, top, and at India's Umaid Bhawan Palace, bottom.

the organization and served to guide us and mentor us as we progressed.

It's time now to talk about those twenty years; to highlight some of the accomplishments and reflect upon the kiting landscape now and going forward. There have been so many great moments, and most of you readers probably know what I'm going to write about. But I'm going to start with something we didn't do – spread a rumor, perhaps – and maybe influence one of you to pursue this story or one like it.

In the early years of the Foundation, we had occasion to work with Robert Trepanier, probably in a workshop situation, as Robert helped to develop many of our paper and bamboo kite kits. Robert relayed a story, told to him by a Canadian journalist, about kites being used in a small fishing village in southern Mexico. The kites were not used in a traditional fishing manner, i.e. to carry line out to the fish. Rather, they were large kites that were used to lift the full fishing nets so they could be taken more easily to shore. The capper was that these large kites were made from “fish bladders” (skin, internal organs, who knows!) and were as tall as a man. From trips to Mexico, where we enabled whale researcher Oscar Frey to use kite aerial photography, to trips to Guatemala, where we studied the history and power of the *barriletes gigantes*, we were never able to track down this kite tradition and see it for ourselves. Does it still survive? I hope so, and hope that someone with a quality camera stumbles onto this elusive story.

Probably the most significant moment in the Foundation's history came when Ali and Ben traveled to London to participate in the Samuel Franklin Cody auction at Sotheby's auction house. Having learned specifics of this auction only days before, we made the

decision that we must participate and try to keep as much of this collection's kite material together as possible. Ben and Ali arrived a day early and tried very hard to get a lay of the land and to see who else might be interested in the kite material. The last thing we wanted was to be bidding against other passionate kite people. We received valuable “intel” from attendees Jan Desimpelaere, Paul Chapman, and Frits Sauve, and when the dust settled, the Drachen Foundation owned a significant portion of the Cody kite collection – photos, documents, and artifacts – a collection that literally put the Drachen Foundation archive on the map. A very significant follow-up to the auction was 1994's Dieppe Kite Festival, at which the Foundation went to the expense of shipping many of the significant artifacts from the auction to France for the benefit of historical kite enthusiasts. This was a major step in showing the intent of the Drachen Foundation; open sharing of material to all interested parties. Dieppe paved the way for a continuation of historical kite gatherings that had humble origins in Jan and Wilma Fischer's home and have been going every year since.

The Drachen Foundation made significant inroads into communities outside our very close-knit kite community. Perhaps the best example is 2006's collaboration with *Hand Papermaking* in its 20th anniversary celebration. The magazine had had a 20-year run and was popular with artists from a variety of backgrounds: papermakers, printers, and fine artists. The Foundation was tasked with providing a kite-related insert for every magazine – it was a wonderful miniature designed by artist Lesley Dill and produced for the magazine by Ali Fujino. The anniversary issue featured articles on flying paper, including paper hot air balloons, paper airplanes, and kites. I wrote the detailed article on kites and then was lucky enough to collaborate with Lesley

on the last project of the celebration: a large paper and bamboo kite to be the centerpiece of a kite exhibit at Baltimore's Maryland Institute College of Art. The uncompromising final result was a wonderful paper kite that, in my opinion, would have flown had it been asked. It has not flown but remains one of Lesley Dill's signature artworks.

The collaboration with *Hand Papermaking* led to almost a decade of workshops and lectures with fine artists. It led to a number of presentations with our Japanese kite mentor Nobuhiko Yoshizumi, as well as the Foundation's commitment to importing fine bamboo, suitable for kitemaking. Additionally, kite kits developed by Yoshizumi-san have introduced hundreds of artists and craftsmen to the magic of full-sized, refined Japanese kites.

The results of this collaboration and others like it produced a bit of a change in the direction of the Drachen Foundation's outreach. In its first decade, the Foundation spoke mostly to kite groups – preaching to the choir, if you will. For the last ten years, we have pushed into many different groups apart from our traditional kite groups. We have hosted artists in Seattle, Austria, and Japan to produce unique and exciting paper kites. We have sponsored and participated in kitemaking and kite exhibits in Oaxaca, Pachuca, and Puebla, Mexico, all to bring kites into communities with little or no knowledge of their allure.

Finally, I am most proud of the publications that the Foundation has produced. John Stevenson's *Japanese Kite Prints* stands alone as the best resource on *ukiyo-e* with kites. John's mastery of the subject is inspiring, and the prints from the Skinner Collection are no less so. Stevenson allows the prints to tell the story of Japanese printmaking throughout the 19th Century

and brings the history to the present with the selection of several contemporary art pieces. I am most excited about this book because it has so much useful and inspiring information waiting to be discovered.

The Foundation's first publication, *Kites: Paper Wings over Japan*, was another collaboration and could not have been done without the help of Masaaki Modegi, Tsutomu Hiroi, and the Japan Kite Association. While much less ambitious than Stevenson's book, *Paper Wings* has become a standard reference for students of Japanese kites. We worked very hard to make this a book that could be useful and interesting to both the *tako kichi* (kite crazy) and the kite novice.

Ali and I were honored to help with the publication of Sim Sarak and Tcheang Yarin's book on the history and traditions of Cambodian kites. *Khleng Ek* are fascinating examples of a country's unique and varied kite traditions and this publication (through the work of Sim and Tcheang) has helped to salvage and revive the craft.


Likewise, our recent book, *Wings of Resistance: the Giant Kites of Guatemala*, has given voice to the native people of Guatemala. These amazing kites are examples of ethnic art, powerful political speech, and immense pride. Our most taxing publication effort, *Wings of Resistance* is nonetheless the most satisfying of our books that has come to fruition. Again, Ali was instrumental and irreplaceable in this effort.

So, in twenty years we have done significant things and have had more than a little fun along the way. We have built a significant archive of kite material: the Cody collection, kites from the Wright, Street, and Lockhart collections, books and articles

*continued on page 38*



Drachen Foundation



[Log In](#) | [My Account](#) | [About Us](#) | [Collections](#) | [Store](#) | [Donate](#)

[Search](#)


**Learn**  
Learn the basics and what makes kites great!

**Teach**  
We have the tools to help you succeed.


**Interact**  
Find events and other enthusiasts.

**Browse**  
View our collection and resources.

---



Kite Flight in Callaway, Nebraska





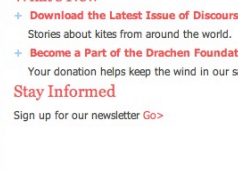
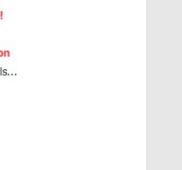
**Browse the Collection**  
Browse the World's Largest Database of Kites and Kite-Related Information!...  
[Read more >](#)

**Add to the World's Kite Collection**  
Add your kites, artifacts and stories to the world's largest digital kite collection... ..  
[Read more >](#)

**What's New**

- + **Download the Latest Issue of Discourse!**  
Stories about kites from around the world.
- + **Become a Part of the Drachen Foundation**  
Your donation helps keep the wind in our sails...

**Stay Informed**  
Sign up for our newsletter [Go>](#)

The Drachen Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation devoted to the increase and diffusion of knowledge about kites world wide.

Home | Contact | FAQ | Facebook | Twitter | Copyright 2011 The Drachen Foundation | Site by Fuse IQ | Managed by Red-Hackfix

Drachen Foundation

From projects with artists, like the Lesley Dill/Scott Skinner kite shown, top, to bringing a massive kite archive online with the relaunched Drachen website, the Foundation has worked to disseminate kite knowledge worldwide.

from all over the world. We have brought kites to people and people to kites who might never have found them without our “push.” In workshops and gatherings we have pushed design and art in kites and have enabled many trained artists to be competent kitemakers without the burdensome learning curve. With our online *Journal* and *Discourse*, and with our hard copy books in print, we have contributed in a small way to the dissemination of kite knowledge worldwide.

Finally, we have collected this twenty years of work and have been able, with the help of today’s technology, to distill and organize it into a state-of-the-art website. Going forward, the Foundation will have no need for its physical collections as they have been rendered into online information. Articles, kite details, photos – all have been digitized and loaded onto the Drachen Foundation website where they are accessible to readers worldwide.

Our original mission of creating a working archive and sharing its information with kite enthusiasts and the public has become a reality. Our mission for the next twenty years is to manage the wealth of information that comes to the Foundation and to continue to share that information freely. It is exciting to think that with our active participation and contributions, the website will remain a viable and important resource for years to come. ♦

# 20 YEARS OF DF, 20 YEARS OF PRISM

Ali Fujino



Mark Reed, Prism Designs Inc.

Beautiful Prism banners and kites decorate a beach. Like Drachen, these kites are celebrating their 20th anniversary.

## A FASCINATION WITH FLIGHT: GETTING TO KNOW THE MANY FACETS OF MARK REED

Everyone's personal history can either be crafted by the individual or someone else. I like the idea of having it crafted by someone else, as it creates a larger circle of interest, liberal interpretation, and "the thing that makes one a legend." In this *Discourse*, I thought it would be fun to do an article that continues the 20th anniversary theme. I looked around in the kite industry, and who did I find?

Mark Reed and Prism Design, Inc. Like the Drachen Foundation, Mark and Prism are

celebrating 20 years.

Mark Reed grew up in Connecticut, the son of painter Robert J. Reed, Jr., a professor of art at Yale, and a mother, equally creative, working and teaching as a graphic designer. Perhaps it was this creative influence that moved him toward his double degree at Yale, architecture and music. Like many of the individuals of his generation, his degree did not necessarily determine what he would do for a living. The constant fascination throughout his schooling was a fascination of wind. This led him to sailing, flying, and kites while at Yale.

*continued on page 42*



Mark Reed, Prism Designs Inc.

Mark Reed and his Prism kites. With a lifelong passion for wind, Mark has grown Prism Designs through good design, production, and business practices.





Mark Reed, Prism Designs Inc.

Mark's wife and co-founder, Chris Buchanan, flying kites in Alaska

Graduation came and Mark left to sail. His best friend, Scooby Puchtler, returned to the West Coast. After his year at sea, Mark followed Scooby to Seattle. Realizing that a livelihood (job) was necessary, he and Scooby (a talented designer, private pilot, woodworker, and musician who has since started his own company, Liftworx, [www.liftworx.com](http://www.liftworx.com)), now-wife Christine, and friend David LaTaglia dove right in and started a company.

It was the beginning of Prism Design, four enthusiastic beginning entrepreneurs maxing out credit cards to establish their business presence with enough money to rent a house (for living and working) and buy a commercial sewing machine and a fax. Staying true to the tone of their lifelong passions, "flight as the ultimate escape," they began to make kites. Serendipity brought them into Ken Conrad's shop, Great Winds Kites. After seeing their kites, Ken said, "You should really make more of these kites and sell them."

This was the age of stunt kites, and the growing interest in these types of kites outgrew cottage industry home production. Scooby and Mark jumped in with their designs, and it was their production savvy that drove the possibility of producing enough kites to make a good living.

This encounter with Ken led to the KTA, Kite Trade Association (still in its infancy), and it was the success of their designs that taught them two things: figure out production, and don't worry about the politics and culture of the kite clubs. Go out and make a good product and support your prospective clients. A business was born.

The success of Prism Design was not overnight. (Hence the reason they are celebrating 20 successful years.) Good design, good production, and the passion to

give the public the best their money could buy were the ingredients for wonderful flyable kites and a long future.

To know Mark is a treat, as after an hour I realized he's an avid reader and "doer" in his own personal life. He doesn't sit on the edge of a couch after work. Competitive sailing, rock climbing, and photography are personal passions.

A self produced 2013 calendar celebrating 20 years of Prism illustrates this well. The photos in the calendar were all shot by Mark himself. *Take Flight: Alaska from Above* is a calendar promoting the love of his company and his personal passion for wind (wind, kites, and planes). I was struck by the professional photos of the iconic Alaskan wilderness.

What is this about? Again, it's Mark. His fascination with flight and Alaska led him to build his own plane to allow him to go to Alaska when time permits. With good weather, Mark, his wife Chris (also a pilot), their three-year-old daughter, and 300 pounds of gear (which includes kites) fly north to spend up to a month in the Alaskan wilderness.

PRISM KITES: BRINGING MODERN TECHNOLOGY TO AN ANCIENT ART

Their product line is one of the best in the world. They have found a niche designing kites with performable quality and affordability. This is a classy product. \$25.00 buys you a performance kite that is rugged, a guaranteed flier, and is supported for the life of the kite. (You can go on to their website and find EVERY part to replace EVERY kite they have made over the last twenty years. Now that's client support.)

The kites are not only well designed and

*continued on page 45*



Mark Reed, Prism Designs Inc.



Mark Reed, Prism Designs Inc.

“Perhaps there is no better place to fly than Alaska.” - Ali Fujino

made industrially, but their designs are state of the art and pleasing. You are getting ART, as well as a recreational item. Da Vinci sketched flying machines, gliders, and kites 400 years ago. But innovative design and modern materials create the strong and incredibly lightweight structures that allow Prism kites to fly in the sky and still be affordable to the public. Mark and his team combine scientific understanding of aerodynamics and engineering with an artist's sense of design, color, and proportion to produce kites that look as good as they fly.

One of my favorites is the EO-6 (13.5 in. x 30 in. x 18.5 in.), a most innovative 3D kite from the mind of Phil McConnachie, internationally acclaimed Australian designer. The EO-6 is a "box kite" that soars like a traditional single-liner, but with a tug on the line, the EO-6 becomes a playful "tumbler," able to perform a range of tricks. NO assembly required. Just find the wind, pop it open, and watch it soar and tumble as it climbs into the sky.

Mark is happy and humbled by the way things have turned out at Prism: "We gave the consumer something worthy and exciting, skill-based activities, and they gave us a loyal base by returning to us for more."

While the kiting industry groans about how it's shrinking, Mark and Prism can show you how this isn't true. Their sales increase each year and their concern is not being able to produce enough for the demand.

So if it has taken you 20 years to discover Prism kites, don't wait another 20. Do it now.

Check out the working world of Prism Design at [www.prismkites.com](http://www.prismkites.com). ♦



Daniel Beltra/Mark Reed, Prism Designs Inc.

Mark and his team combine aerodynamics and engineering with an artist's sense of design, color, and proportion to produce kites that look as good as they fly.



Submit your article or photographs to *Discourse*! We thank our authors with official Drachen Foundation gifts. These gifts are not available for purchase and are reserved for the authors and special friends of *Discourse*.

Send your submission or comments to:  
[discourse@drachen.org](mailto:discourse@drachen.org)