

Cut, Fold, Roll:

Making Art with Paper

April 30 - November 6, 2022



CASTELLANI
ART MUSEUM
OF NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

**An Exhibition Curated by Niagara University's
AHM357A: Exhibiting Cultures**

Cut it out. Fold it up. Roll it around.

Paper is more than something you write an adventure on.

It is more than the doodles drawn on every inch.

Paper is art.

By changing the shape of a sheet of paper, artists can create all sorts of designs: from delicate flowers to imposing dragons.

Paper art traditions can be found in many cultures and communities around the world, from Mexico to Japan to Italy.

Learn about the sharp cuts of a *papel picado* banner, the many folds of an *origami* flower, and the flowing swirls of a quilled artwork in *Cut, Fold, Roll: Making Art with Paper*.

Cut, Fold, Roll explores paper art traditions that use nothing more than paper to create beautiful designs and images, spanning from the types of techniques and folds to the design process behind them.

Featuring the works of Master Quiller Anita Muzzi, mixed media and *papel picado* artist Mara Odette, and *origami* artist Braedon Sidor, *Cut, Fold, Roll* encourages you to recognize the artistic possibilities found in a sheet of paper.

This exhibition is curated by Niagara University's Art History with Museum Studies course *AHM357A: Exhibiting Cultures*, a hands-on introduction to developing museum exhibitions about traditional culture.

(cover detail, from top)

Mara Odette, *Flower Papel Picado*, 2022, paper
Braedon Sidor, *Wet-fold Origami Flower*, 2022, paper
Anita Muzzi, *Quilled Rose and Leaves*, 2001, paper



“When I start, I will draw out the design: the more sophisticated drawings, its more difficult because of the time. And you need the right tools. But when you’re making many, chisels are the best.”

Mara Odette

(detail) Mara Odette, *Papel Picado Wall Mural*, 2022, paper



Papel Picado

Papel picado is the Mexican traditional art of paper-cutting, where artists use a chisel, knife, or scissors to cut intricate designs through layers of tissue paper that are usually strung together to hang as a banner.

Chisels are the most common blade used to make papel picado, as it allows the artist to create multiple versions of the same design at once: by cutting the design through stacks of different colored tissue paper on top of a metal or hard surface.

Designs for papel picado are extremely varied, ranging from floral to portraits to geometric patterns.

Papel picado can be seen everywhere in Mexico, with the decorative paper designs found on everything from hanging in the streets during public holidays to quinceañeras and weddings. These banners are especially associated with ritual altars, or ofrendas, during Día de los Muertos.

Mara Odette is a mixed media artist originally from Chiapas, the southernmost state in Mexico: splitting time between Buffalo (NY), Bethesda (MD), and Cuernavaca (MX). Mara Odette has created papel picado works since she was young, and has kept an interest in paper as a medium and inspiration.

Origami is the Japanese traditional art of folding paper into different designs.

Both plain and patterned paper is used in origami, and each sheet comes in various sizes: from the most common 7.5 cm x 7.5 cm square sheet, up to 60 cm x 60 cm.

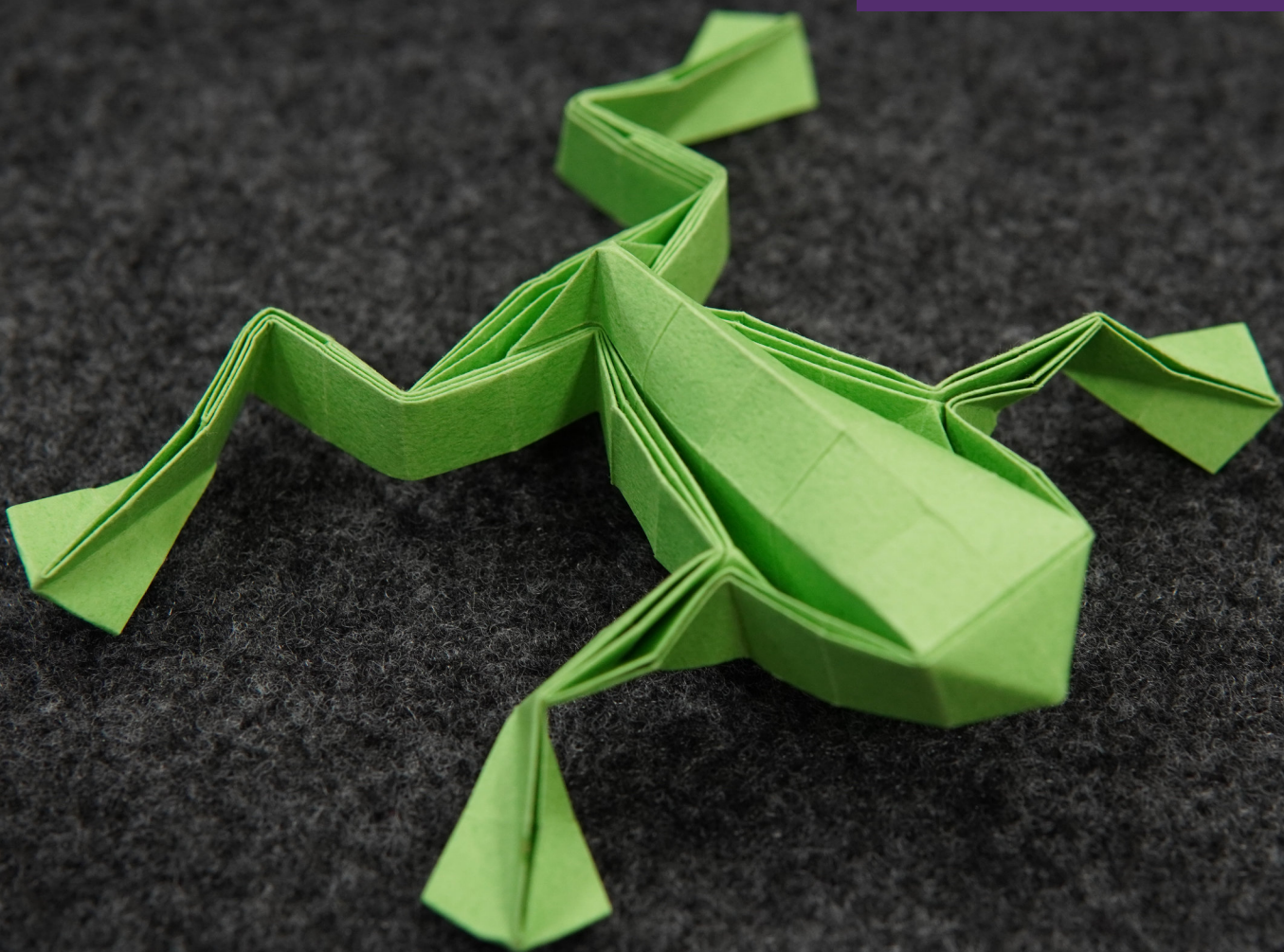
There are many different folds in any origami design, with each fold named after what they resemble - a mountain fold, valley fold, a kite fold - or the type of technique used - pleat fold, squash fold, inside reverse fold.

Origami is often learned either from family members, through book tutorials, or online platforms like Youtube, where artists share and learn new designs or refresh on old ones.

Contemporary origami builds off the foundations of traditional origami, focusing on increasingly complex and detailed designs.

Braedon Sidor is an origami artist from Eden, New York who has been making origami since the third grade. Braedon enjoys making traditional and contemporary origami, ranging from simple folds to complex designs.

(detail) Braedon Sidor, *Pleated Frog*, 2022, paper



Origami



Quilling

Quilling, or paper filigree, is the art of rolling strips of paper into decorative shapes that are glued together to create one design.

While the earliest origins of quilling can be traced to Ancient Egypt, today's quilling is often traced to convents in Italy and France during the 14th and 15th centuries, where it was used to embellish religious documents.

Today, quilling is used as a decorative addition to formal documents like wedding invitations, to create intricately detailed artworks, or even to create particular sculptures. Flowers, vines, and leaves are common designs in traditional quilling, while contemporary patterns focus on those with animals or birds.

There's a number of different rolls used in quilling, but the four most popular are coils, teardrops, marquis, and scrolls. Quilling is a low-cost and exciting hobby, with nothing more needed than a thin instrument and a strip of paper to roll around that middle.

Anita Muzzi is a Master Quiller based in Lewiston, New York who has been quilling for over 47 years. Anita primarily does formal and traditional quilling, using diverse floral cascades to decorate everything from wedding invitations to placecards.

“The beauty of origami, is you start with this completely blank canvas—a sheet of paper—that you have to delicately and intricately fold to create something: whether it be an animal, a giant sculpture, or a simple thing with just a few folds.”

Braedon Sidor



(detail) Braedon Sidor, *Origami Butterfly*, 2022, paper

“I would define myself as a paper-holic...I love working with paper. Anything to do with paper. And the reaction I get when people see them...(that’s what makes quilling meaningful).”

Anita Muzzi



(detail) Anita Muzzi, *Quilled Angel*, n.d., paper

AHM357A: Exhibiting Cultures

This course is a hands-on interdisciplinary introduction to the development of museum exhibitions that feature local cultural traditions and practitioners and ethnographic fieldwork, with semester project culminating in either a program or exhibition.

Course Instructor: Professor Edward Y. J. Millar

Student Curators: Stephanie Chandler | Taylor Choquette | Jordyn Fisher | Emily Grant
Mikaela Prygon | Eden Ruh | Abigail Sapecky

Art History with Museum Studies Program

Art History with Museum Studies is both an academic and professional program that provides students with a scholarly study of art, culture and museums while focusing on the area of professional museum work such as curatorship, education, collections management, museum administration and development.

Our partnership with the Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University, centrally located on campus, is an integral part of the museum studies component and provides opportunities for museum internships and exhibition-based courses.

Exhibited Artworks

All works on loan from the artists,
unless otherwise noted.

Mara Odette, *Assorted Papel Picado banners with Butterfly, Castellani Art Museum, Corazon, Don Vicente, Birds, Flower Mandala, and Virgen de Guadalupe designs*, 2022, paper

Mara Odette, *Papel Picado Wall Mural*, 2022, paper

Braedon Sidor, *Origami Fireworks*, 2021, paper

Braedon Sidor, *Assorted Contemporary Origami*, 2021, paper

Braedon Sidor, *Assorted Modular Origami*, 2021, paper

Braedon Sidor, *Assorted Traditional Origami*, 2021, paper

Anita Muzzi, *Quilled Angel*, n.d., paper

Anita Muzzi, *Quilled Snowflake*, 2004, paper

Anita Muzzi, *Quilled Altered Art Portraits*, 2022, paper

Anita Muzzi, *Assorted Quilled Wedding Invitations*, 1994-2019, paper



**Council on
the Arts**

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**CASTELLANI
ART MUSEUM
OF NIAGARA UNIVERSITY**



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Please visit our website for current hours of operation.
The Castellani Art Museum is a free admission art museum.
Donations welcome.