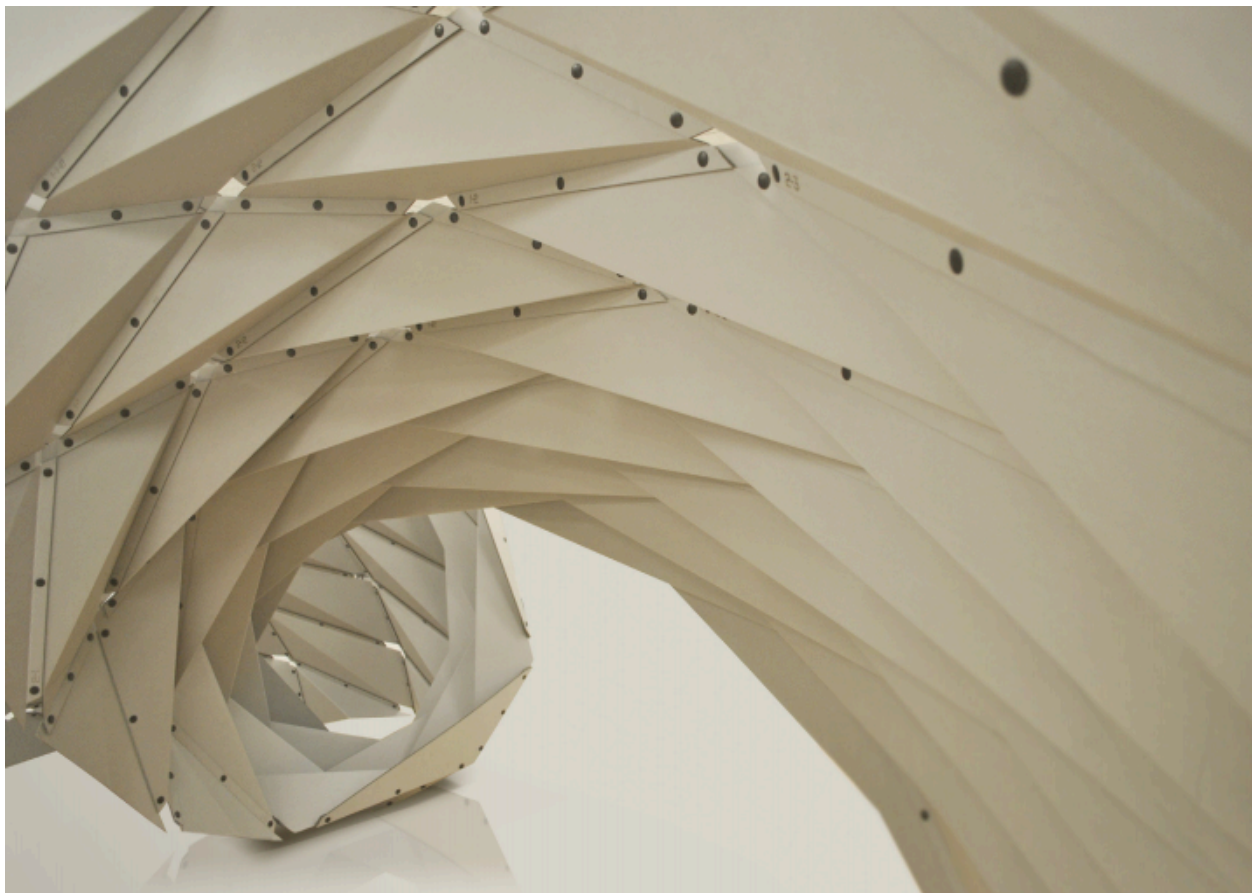


**New exhibitions at the Art Gallery of Hamilton
expand the boundaries of artistic expression.**



Detail of Jiangmei Wu, *Ruga Swan*, 2014, SafeCorr grey acid-free corrugated board, plastic rivets. Photo courtesy of International Arts & Artists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Tuesday, February 12, 2019

The Art Gallery of Hamilton launches 2019 with a ground-breaking new exhibition that reveals the extraordinary power and potential of contemporary origami. ***Above the Fold: New Expressions in Origami*** is an engaging, thought-provoking, and interdisciplinary look at the modern advances of origami through the works of nine internationally renowned artists from Canada, France, Israel, Japan, and the UK. With 17 installations, some as large as 7' x 20', visitors will be amazed by the modern sophistication of this highly evolved ancient practice. The Art Gallery of Hamilton is the only Canadian venue for this exhibition.

“Origami has had a profound impact on international arts and sciences from space exploration, engineering and molecular biology to fashion, architecture and design.” says AGH President and CEO Shelley Falconer. “The AGH is proud to host *Above the Fold: New Expressions in Origami* as the only Canadian stop, showcasing nine important International artists who transform this traditional Japanese technique into new ideas and expressions.”

Also new this season, ***Hamilton Now: Object*** and ***The Living Room: unfolding*** explore the works of local and regional artists using interactive digital media, VR, video, photography, and other experimental approaches to sculpture and design.

[Above the Fold: New Expressions in Origami](#)

On view until May 26, 2019

Only Canadian venue

Curated by Meher McArthur and tour organized by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.

Presented by the Royal Bank of Canada

#AGHFold



From left to right: Yuko Nishimura, *Shine*, 2008, washi (kyokushi). Photo courtesy of the artist. | Erik and Martin DeMaine, *Greene Recycling / Destroyers VIII*, 2013, elephant hide paper. Photo courtesy of the artists. | Erik and Martin DeMaine, *You See*, 2014, elephant hide paper. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Above the Fold demonstrates the extraordinary artistic achievements being made in the world of contemporary origami. In the hands of nine international artists, what was once considered a children’s craft becomes a sophisticated and often breathtaking global art form. Paper is transformed into dramatic sculpture, large-scale installations and conceptual works that express contemporary social, political, aesthetic, and cultural dialogues. *Above the Fold* is the first traveling exhibition to bring a group of origami installations and conceptual sculptures from around the world to North American audiences.

Each artist has created pieces specifically for this tour—and together for the first time, their collective works will present unique and, “above the fold” commentaries on diverse aspects of modern life and art.

Artists

Erik Demaine and Martin Demaine (Canada/USA) A father-son art-science team; the Demaines fold, pleat, and twist paper into powerful sculptural forms that illustrate the intriguing and profound connections between mathematics and origami. They use mathematical calculations to create unconventional works that challenge the direction of paper folding. For years, the Demaines have been exploring the potential of curved folding, in which paper is folded along a curved, rather than a straight line. The Demaines have folded a series of their signature, abstract “Curved-Crease Sculptures” using modular techniques to increase sculptural size. They also created combined glass-and-paper folded forms, large works that incorporate text, and mobius hypars (curved-crease foldings) interlocked through space, thus blending art, science and literature.

Vincent Floderer (France) An artist who specializes in crumpling, a technique that includes dampening and stretching origami paper to create organic and multi-layered forms, Floderer will create a dynamic, large-scale installation called *Unidentified Flying Origami*. It will be a universe of floating, rotating organic models that move via air flow. The models show the creative process Floderer uses to develop his crumpling techniques. Each model derives from classical, modular, box-pleated origami forms that he transforms into otherworldly creations. The installation adapts to each venue’s gallery space, changing aesthetically with each presentation.

Miri Golan (Israel) A peace activist, educator, and origami artist, Golan has created a series of book sculptures, based on her conceptual piece in the traveling *exhibition Folding Paper, Two Books*, in which origami figures emerge from the pages of two sacred texts, the Torah and the Koran, and reach out to each other. Golan hopes to use her installations as a catalyst to unite people of different religious and cultural backgrounds. She has founded an organization called Folding Together, a group that encourages Israeli and Palestinian children and adults to fold paper forms as a team, turning the creation of origami into a collaborative expression of hope for a more peaceful world. Golan’s work represents the possibility for origami to be not only a means of artistic expression, but also a platform for positive social change.

Yuko Nishimura (Japan) A young talent, Nishimura is already an award-winning origami artist. With a background in architecture and design, Nishimura contributes several framed, wall-hung tessellations in which light and shadow interplay on the folded surface of the paper to dramatic effect. Nishimura comments, “Japanese people unconsciously experience the action of folding on a daily basis, and therefore encounter various folded forms. I think there must be a special meaning for Japanese people through this everyday practice, folding....In order to link the past with future generations regarding the form of folding, I do not limit myself to the category of origami but consider the pursuit of any possibility of folding paper.”

Dr. Robert J. Lang (USA) A former NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory laser physicist and professional origami artist, author, and lecturer, Dr. Lang will create a large, modular mathematical piece exploring the concept of infinity. In modular origami, multiple sheets of paper are folded into individual units—or modules—and combined to form larger, more complex geometric structures. Works are held together by the friction and tension created by inserting flaps from one module into pockets of another. Titled *Pentasia*, the surface of Dr. Lang’s work is composed of equilateral triangles and theoretically extends to infinity without ever repeating itself.

Paul Jackson (UK/Israel) A folder who specializes in abstract origami sculptures and takes a highly philosophical approach to the process of folding – and unfolding, Jackson designs a series of large, folded photographs featuring the artist's own hands folding paper. The piece, titled *Drawn, Quartered, and Hung*, are suspended from the ceiling, with images appearing on the front and back of the sculpture. On one side the image will appear smooth, and on the opposite it will be fragmented or abstracted, offering new perspectives on how we view ourselves.

Richard Sweeney (UK) A multi-media artist, rather than an origami artist per se, Sweeney combines handcrafted, three-dimensional models with computer-aided design and CNC (computer numerical control) techniques in the creation of his works. He has created a large-scale pleated paper installation called *Column* that spirals downwards from the ceiling in a form that blends poetry with precision.

Jiangmei Wu (China/USA) Currently an Assistant Professor in design at Indiana University Bloomington, she also works as an artist and designer and is interested in how folding can be expressed mathematically, physically, and aesthetically, how it can be done with different material and techniques, and how these aspects work together with the conceptual space in which they occur. In her folded works like *Ruga Swan* (*ruga* is the Latin for “a fold, crease or wrinkle”), the folded forms have rigid properties and at the same time are flexible; they are deployable and can be collapsed again into smaller compressed forms. This installation, created from two folded sections joined together, unites her fascination with interior skin, natural forms and the effects of light and shadow.

Curated by Meher McArthur and tour organized by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.
Presented by the Royal Bank of Canada
#AGHFold

Award-winning Documentary

Screening as part of the exhibition is Vanessa Gould's Peabody award-winning documentary ***Between the Folds*** which features six of the artists from ***Above the Fold: New Expressions in Origami***.

Between the Folds chronicles the stories of ten fine artists and intrepid theoretical scientists who have abandoned careers and scoffed at hard-earned graduate degrees—all to forge unconventional lives as modern-day paper folders.

As they converge on the unlikely medium of origami, these artists and scientists reinterpret the world in paper, and bring forth a mix of bold sensibilities towards art, expressiveness, creativity and meaning. Together, these singular and adventurous minds demonstrate the innumerable ways that art and science come to bear as we strive to understand and honor the world around us—as artists, scientists, creators, collaborators, preservers, and simply curious beings.

"Luminously photographed", with a lush original score featuring the Budapest Symphony Orchestra, the film paints an arresting portrait of the mysterious creative threads that bind us all—fusing science and sculpture, form and function, ancient and new.

[Watch the trailer.](#)



[Hamilton Now: Object](#)

On view until May 20, 2019

Curated by Melissa Bennett

#AGHHamiltonNow



Installation image: *Hamilton Now: Object* featuring work by Carmela Laganese (Canadian), *Debaser* (detail) 2016 reclaimed wood, various materials, digital projection, hardware, Microcontrollers.

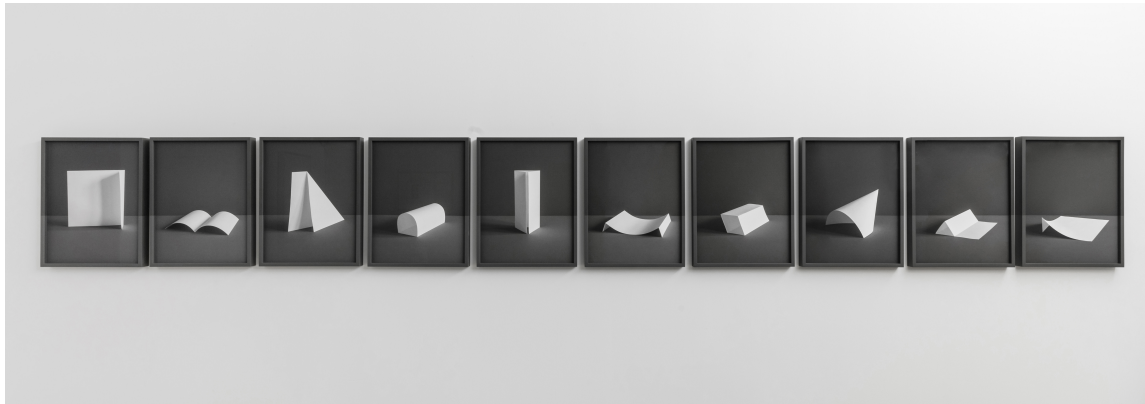
An experimental approach to sculpture and digital media, this exhibition is a statement on the incredible number of artists working in Hamilton, including many who are newly arrived to the city. The second of two parts, *Hamilton Now: Object* focuses mainly on sculptors. This large group exhibition offers fresh experiences of various material and conceptual approaches to the medium. Works include architectural explorations of place, hybridized clay sculptures, textile works and an interactive digital video project that incorporates a sculptural map of Hamilton.

Artists include: Donna Akrey, Christopher Reid Flock, Destiny Grimm, Hamilton Perambulatory unit (HPU), Svava Thordis Juliusson, Carmela Laganese, Laura Marotta, Taien Ng-Chan, and Persons.

The Living Room: unfolding...

On view until May 12, 2019

Curated by Tor Lukasik-Foss
#AGHLivingRoom



Kristiina Lahde, *Ten Fold*, 2016. Photo courtesy of the artist, MKG127, photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

Toronto-based artist Kristiina Lahde makes elegant investigations into found and everyday materials, paying strong attention to the possibilities of paper. Through two photo-series, Lahde explores the sculptural potential inherent in letter-sized paper and the dramatic way it can transform using even the simplest of folds.

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About the Art Gallery of Hamilton

Founded in 1914, the Art Gallery of Hamilton is the oldest and largest public art gallery in southwestern Ontario. Its permanent collection, which is focused on historical Canadian, 19th-century European, and International and Contemporary art, numbers more than 10,000 works and is recognized as one of Canada's finest. The AGH is a vital creative hub and centre of lifelong learning that enables people of all ages to enrich their lives by gaining a deeper understanding of art. The Gallery is supported by the City of Hamilton, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council.

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