



Minnesota Center for Book Arts
At Open Book
1011 Washington Ave S Ste 100
Minneapolis, MN 55415
Telephone: 612 215 2520
Facsimile: 612 215 2545
www.mnbookarts.org
mcba@mnbookarts.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 12, 2009
Contact: Curt Lund
Phone: 612 215 2527
Email: clund@mnbookarts.org
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**MINNESOTA CENTER FOR BOOK ARTS PRESENTS
A WEEK FOR PEACE: REFLECTING ON WAR AND COMBAT THROUGH ART**

(MINNEAPOLIS, MN) Continuing a dialogue initiated at Book Art Biennial 2009 exploring the role of art in social advocacy, Minnesota Center for Book Arts is sponsoring a series of events comprising **A Week for Peace**, to be held **September 19 through 28, 2009**. The week includes workshops and programs with the Combat Paper Project and Warrior Writers Project, both of which serve to provide combat veterans with creative outlets to reconcile their personal experiences and challenge traditional narratives surrounding service, honor and military culture; and encourage dialogue regarding America's responsibilities to returned veterans and an understanding of the dehumanizing effects of warfare.

All events are free and open to the public; veterans will be given preference in workshops if capacity is reached.

Peace Prologue

Saturday, September 19, 2pm; Open Book Target Performance Hall

Join writers and poets Alison Morse, Bryan Thao Worra, Michael Kiesow Moore, Deborah Keenan, Jim Moore, Jude Nutter, Pat Francisco and others at this free reading, kicking off A Week for Peace programming at MCBA.

Veterans Writing and Book Workshop

Saturday and Sunday, September 19–20; in MCBA's Studios

Military veterans from Iraq, Afghanistan and other conflict areas are invited to this free workshop with local artist Monica Haller to share experiences from combat and make a book of photos and words. Registration info at mnbookarts.org.

The Combat Paper Project in Residence at MCBA

September 21–28, 2009

MCBA and Susan Hensel Gallery are proud to host The Combat Paper Project for a week-long residency in MCBA's studios. Through papermaking workshops, local veterans are given the opportunity to use uniforms worn in combat to create cathartic works of art. The uniforms are cut up, beaten into fiber and formed into sheets of paper. Later, text and imagery created by veterans are printed on the sheets. The public is welcome to visit MCBA's studios and view the project in progress through the duration of the residency. Registration info at mnbookarts.org.

Book Arts Roundtable: The Artists of Combat Paper

Tuesday, September 22, 7pm; at MCBA's studios

Join Combat Paper Project artists as they discuss the origins of the project and the efficacy of art in shaping critical dialogue. Add your voice to the mix by helping Combat Paper raise community awareness and stimulate conversations regarding our responsibilities to returned veterans and the dehumanizing effects of warfare. Free and open to the public.

Papermaking Workshop with the Combat Paper Project

Thursday and Friday, September 24–25, 10-4pm each day; in MCBA's studios

Artists from the Combat Paper Project will teach traditional handmade paper techniques utilizing military uniforms and rags to create sheets of paper. Participants will deconstruct uniforms, "break rag", pulp fiber using a Hollander beater and pull sheets of paper for use in books. The history and various processes associated with hand papermaking will also be discussed. Participants are encouraged to bring old military uniforms for use in the workshop. This workshop is free. Space is limited to 10 participants; preference will be given to veterans. Registration info at mnbookarts.org.

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Celebrating A Week for Peace

Friday, September 25, 7pm; Open Book Target Performance Hall

Join the artists of Combat Paper, the Warrior Writers Project and others for an evening celebrating A Week for Peace through a unique program of poetry, shared personal experiences and visual imagery.

Binding and Writing Workshop with Combat Paper and the Warrior Writers Project

Saturday, September 26, 10am-4pm; in MCBA's studios

Using paper created in the papermaking workshop, artists from the Combat Paper Project will teach participants non-adhesive bookbinding techniques that may be used to create journals. In the afternoon, a creative writing workshop will be facilitated by artists associated with the Warrior Writers Project. Participants will be provided with bookbinding and reading materials for both components of the workshop. This workshop is free. Space is limited to 10 participants; preference will be given to veterans. Registration info at mnbookarts.org.

For workshop registration, location and additional information, visit www.mnbookarts.org.

Other Associated Events:

During the Combat Paper Project residency, the windows of the Susan Hensel Gallery (3441 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407) will feature work by Combat Paper Project artists. For more, visit www.susanhenselgallery.com.

Work created during Combat Paper's MCBA residency will be featured in the exhibition ***War Work: Artists Engage Iraq and Other Wars*** at Carleton College, October 22–November 18, 2009, and The Art Museum at the College of Wooster, January 12–February 28, 2010. Visit carleton.edu/campus/gallery for more on ***War Work***, featuring book, paper and print artists Sandow Birk, Daniel Heyman, John Risseuw, Ehren Till, Megan Vossler, the Combat Paper Project and more.

MINNESOTA CENTER FOR BOOK ARTS BACKGROUND: As the largest and most comprehensive center of its kind in the nation, Minnesota Center for Book Arts celebrates the book as a vibrant contemporary art form that takes many shapes. From the traditional crafts of papermaking, letterpress printing and hand bookbinding to experimental artmaking and self-publishing techniques, MCBA supports the limitless creative evolution of book arts through book arts workshops and programming adults, teens, youth, families and teachers. MCBA is located in the Open Book building in downtown Minneapolis alongside The Loft Literary Center and Milkweed Editions. For more, visit www.mnbookarts.org.

COMBAT PAPER PROJECT BACKGROUND: The Combat Paper Project is based out of Green Door Studio in Burlington, VT and has traveled throughout the United States. This project is made possible by a multifaceted collaboration between artists, art collectors, academic institutions and combat veterans. The story of the soldier, the Marine, the men and the women and the journeys within the military service in a time of war is the basis for this project. The goal is to utilize art as a means to help veterans reconcile their personal experiences as well as broaden the traditional narrative surrounding service, honor and the military culture. Through papermaking workshops veterans use their uniforms worn in combat to create cathartic works of art. The uniforms are cut up, beat and formed into sheets of paper. Veterans use the transformative process of papermaking to reclaim their uniform as art and begin to embrace their experiences as a soldier in war. The work reflects both the anger of the past and hope for the future. Through this collaboration between civilians and veterans, a much-needed conversation is generated regarding our responsibilities to the returned veteran and an understanding of the dehumanizing effects of warfare. For more, visit www.combatpaper.org.

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