

# The Colonial Times

Brought to you by the Allied Arts Council of Pincher Creek

Hello again, Friends.

Origami was one of our go-to crafts when I was little. We got sets of shiny, beautifully printed squares of paper for birthdays and holidays and would spend hours crafting houses (with furnishings), animals, and landscapes. My thousand paper cranes might not have brought world peace, but I'm sure it brought my parents many hours of silence and space, which might feel like the same thing at the moment. It is an odd truth that the restrictions of social distancing have led me to require full isolation at times, as if the few people we are allowed to be close to embody the entire human race for a moment. I hope that you can find some internal quiet in the folding and creasing of beautiful paper this week. We'll find our path. Eventually.

I love you. Have a great week!

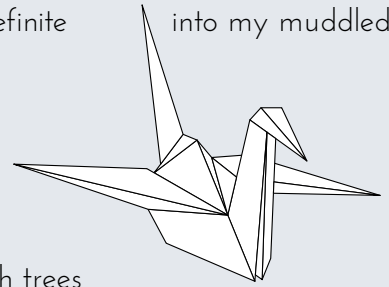
Claren

PAPER CRANES by Madisen Kuhn

you told me  
to write down my feelings  
and share them with you  
when you wake up,  
but drawing out these emotions  
isn't easy because  
they're pale and indefinite

so maybe in the meantime  
i'll sit in my room  
and fold paper cranes  
on rainy days  
till a map that illustrates  
how to carry on  
makes its way  
into my muddled hands

i cannot distinguish  
a path to take,  
whether it's winding  
or cobblestoned,  
or so overgrown with trees  
that i cannot see the sky



# The Origami Issue

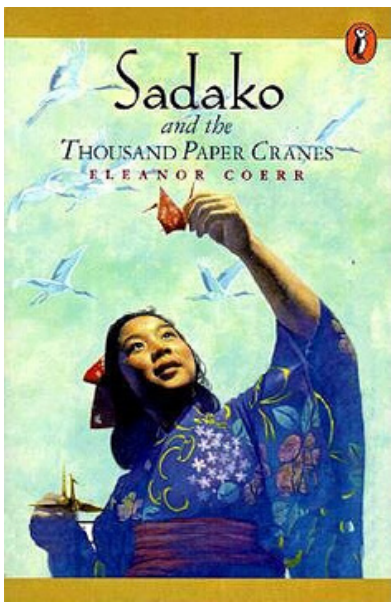
because

Creative Thinking builds Adaptive People

[www.thelebel.ca](http://www.thelebel.ca)



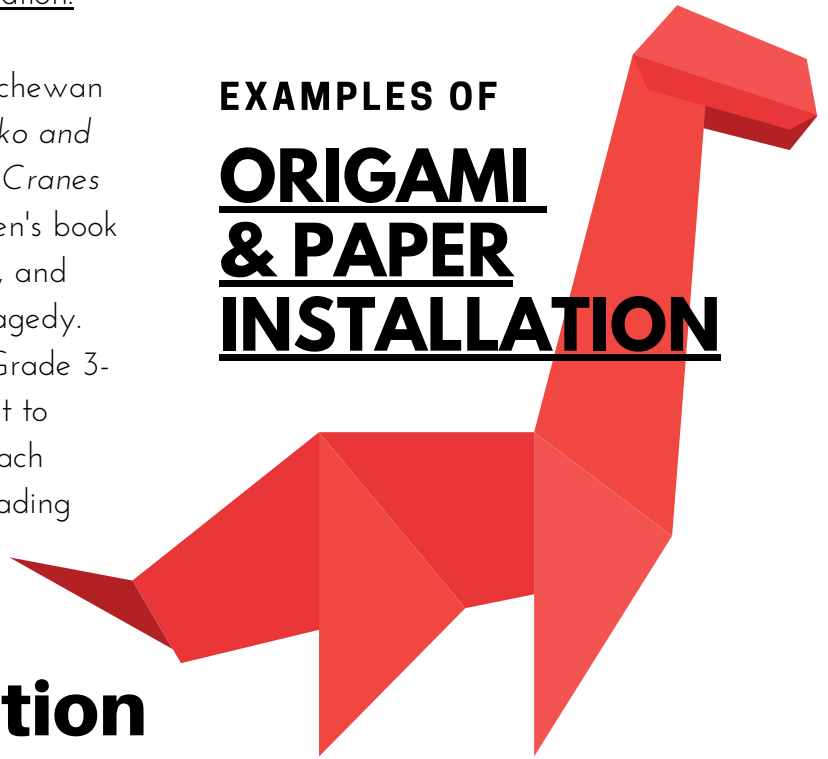
@TheLebel



### Reading Recommendation:

Written by a Saskatchewan author in 1977, *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* is a wonderful children's book about hope, courage, and love in the face of tragedy. Scholastic rates it a Grade 3-5 level book. I'll admit to many attempts to reach 1000 cranes after reading this book.  
-Claren

## EXAMPLES OF **ORIGAMI** **& PAPER** **INSTALLATION**



## Origami Art Installation

By Stacey McRae

'THE TERM INSTALLATION ART IS USED TO DESCRIBE LARGE-SCALE, MIXED-MEDIA CONSTRUCTIONS, OFTEN DESIGNED FOR A SPECIFIC PLACE OR FOR A TEMPORARY PERIOD OF TIME'

SOURCED FROM: TATE MODERN

This week's lesson bridges not only creativity but connection, public speaking, and collaboration. Origami is this week's focus, and it is a process the whole family learns together. Let each member of the family choose their own subject and look up how to create it.

I once developed a project that consisted of hundreds of paper pinwheels mounted on wooden spikes that I then installed in a field under a windmill. They were all sorts of different colours, I used what I had. The installation was beautiful. Naturally, it was a windy day and the pinwheels were spinning along with the windmill they were placed under. Pure Whimsy.

And, yes! I took them down!

**Please don't origami bomb your neighbourhood or anyone else's and keep the installation to your home base during this project!**

Create an installation in your home. Whether your children want to create a mobile installation that hangs from their ceiling or you want their work of art to surround you in your office, choose a place to install. Installations are often site specific and take into account their surroundings.

## **Where to Start:**

What form will you make? What will you use? How will you install them?  
Discuss with your housemates what they would like to see.

Maybe right now, you really need to see some green and construct a green leaf installation in one corner of a room using fishing line and painted computer paper or newspaper or party streamers from the bottom of the party supply bin. Use an old magazine and see how it folds up. Use a dated book that would be better off as an art project. (I read through a pottery basics book a few weeks ago that encouraged the use of asbestos in the studio -yikes!)

Challenge yourself or your family to establish an end goal for the installation. Whether that goal be a number of pieces to construct or the size of the space you want to cover, try to achieve that goal. Either by working together or compartmentalizing the task or taking a chance and let everyone come up with something on their own and come together at a certain day and time to instal the work.

Once you have a plan and a timeline, get working!

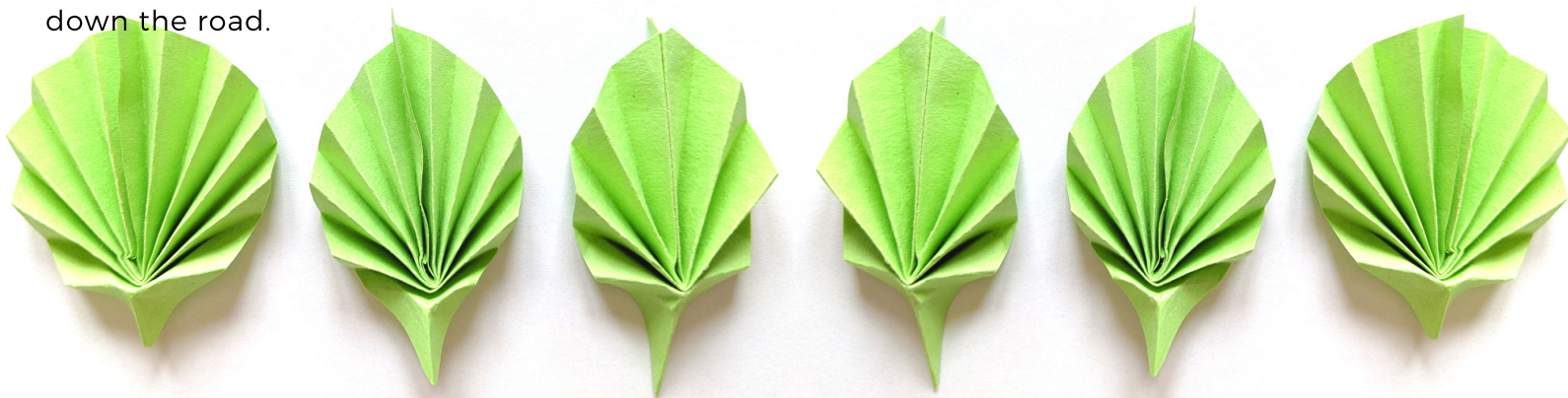
## **Opening Night**

Invite people for a Zoom gallery opening! Instal the art and set a date to dress up and make finger foods to make it feel like you really are having an opening. Show your family and friends what you've made and tell them about the process. Voila, you've just presented an artist talk and turned the art piece into a nonchalant intro to public speaking!

## **The Creative Process; what it can do and how to recognize its value.**

You'll find that repetitively folding the same form starts to have a meditative quality, much like knitting. I made thousands of paper boats during university lectures to help me stay focused. In the beginning there wasn't a purpose in the making, but as they started to accumulate, I ended up using them as projects in about 5 studio classes by reframing their context each time. Eventually he boats made their way into paintings and, believe it or not, I began to bridge science and nature within painting--something that has informed my practice ever since. The point is, you never know where the starting point of something larger is going to come from.

Looking back, I might have been stressed but it did help make me feel productive just from the mere act of moving my hands. A large part of any artistic practice is just that: practice. Artists study and practice constantly. We are often making for no reason at all other than to have busy hands or master a new small skill and move on entirely. We are knowledge seekers. We crave to understand materials in order to understand how to manipulate them. We might not ever come back to a process we learn but more often than not it will inform how we approach another project further down the road.



## For the Littles:

**Option 1:** Try constructing paper boxes with your littles and ask them to find you a treasure. You will likely receive a rock or stick collection back, as these objects are what they can find easily to give to you. But doesn't that make the interaction that much sweeter? Or give them a box to keep with a little treasure inside, just for them.

**Option 2:** Organize all of the materials on a tray needed to make a simple origami form and familiarize yourself with the steps. Make a demo piece for them to see. IT helps Littles be more interested when they can see what it is you are aiming to make. It doesn't always work that way. But origami is a particularly structured art form.

Whatever you work on together, their hands are moving in new ways and creating new muscle memory. They're thinking about the geometry of the paper in their hands without being conscious of it. They're figuring out a new trick and gaining confidence in themselves to work through a tricky task (just like we all are right now, figuring out this new way of life).

