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Combat Paper Project

William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences, University of Massachusetts Boston

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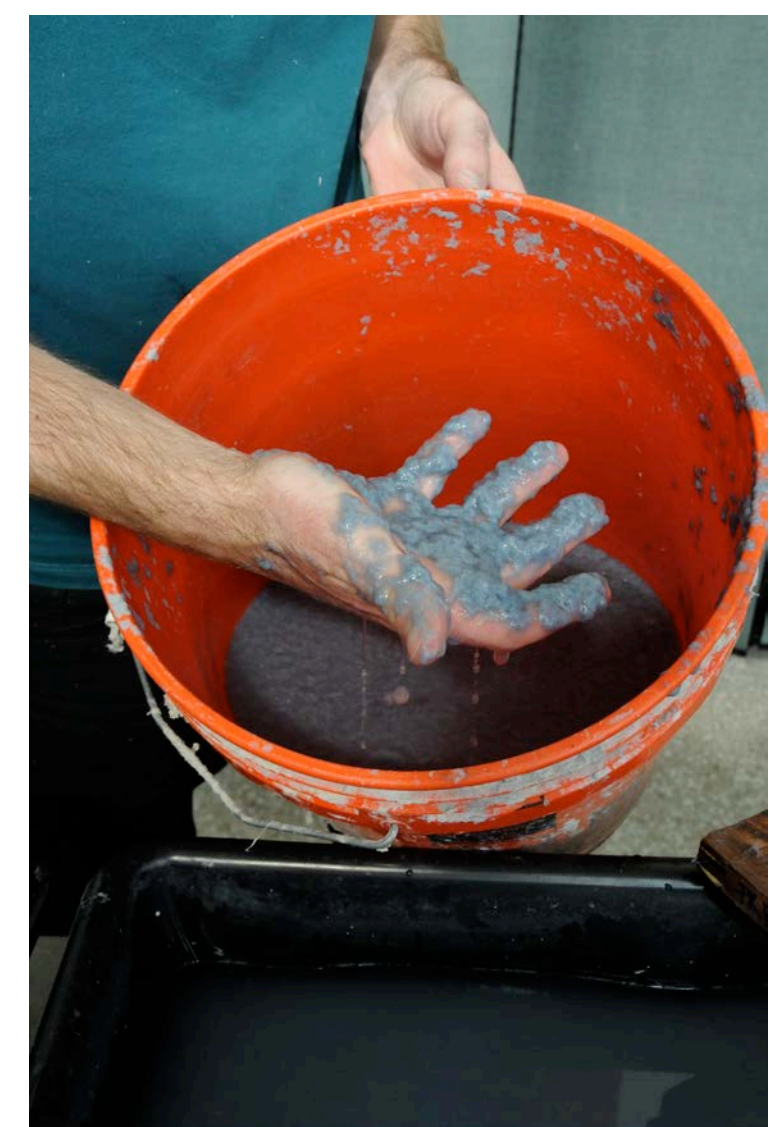
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Background

Coming home from war is enormously difficult. A new language is required to express the magnitude of war's effects and consequences. *Combat Paper* transforms the uniforms of battle to paper and from this transformation comes art.



Developed by veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan in San Francisco, the project has now traveled broadly across the United States and the world.

Goals and Objectives

- To create opportunities to make new works of art and writing on paper made from the fibers of war
- To engage in conversations about the impact of war among veterans themselves, veterans and students, and veterans and their communities



Exhibits and Theater

Performances and exhibits occurred in October 2013.

- Art and poetry made on paper pulped on Campus Plaza and exhibited in Campus Center Atrium



- One woman play – **SafeGuard** – Created and performed by Melissa Bergstrom who assumes the roles of eight women affected differently by war.
- Papermaking and Pulp Printing workshop at Boston Paper Collective, Charlestown
- Display of *Combat Paper* art work at Fort Point Gallery, Boston with poetry reading by veterans.



Artistic Network

Based in San Francisco, *Combat Paper* has affiliates in New York, New Jersey, Nevada and Vermont and has traveled to Canada, the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, and Kosovo providing workshops, exhibitions performances and conversations. It is made possible by the collaborative efforts of veterans, artists, colleges and universities, cultural foundations, and military hospitals.



*“The story of the fiber, the blood, sweat and tears, the months of friendship and brutal violence are held within these old uniforms. Reshaping that association of subordination, of warfare and service, into something collective and beautiful is our inspiration.” -Drew Cameron, Director, *Combat Paper*.*

Education

Goal: To develop understanding among various communities about the real consequences of warfare, both to veterans and those communities.

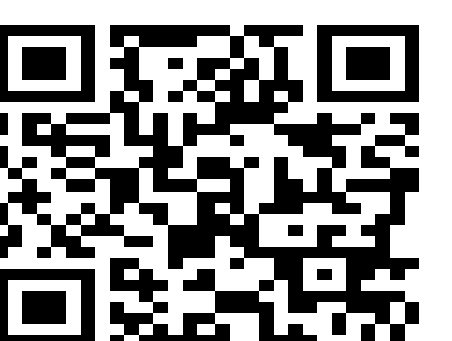
Approach: Creating opportunities for interaction and collaboration between veterans, students and the wider community.

(Through discussions and written and video documentation of the process and project)



Sponsors

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The Office of the President of the University of Massachusetts, Robert L. Caret, Ph.D.;
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Partnership Information

- Combat Paper Project
- UMass Boston, Joiner Institute
- Boston Paper Collective
- Fort Point Gallery
- Odysseus Project