

4CULTURE NEWS RELEASE

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COMBAT PAPER

FROM UNIFORM TO PULP, BATTLEFIELD TO WORKSHOP, WARRIOR TO ARTIST

APRIL 29, MAY 1-4, MAY 20-23

4Culture's Site Specific program in partnership with the Renton Municipal Arts Commission, Pratt Fine Arts Center and the King County Veterans Program proudly hosts **Combat Paper**, for their first visit to the Northwest.

About Combat Paper

Combat Paper is an arts organization that utilizes the traditional hand papermaking techniques to work with populations that have survived trauma due to conflict. Based in Vermont, they travel the United States to conduct workshops for civilians and veterans, which teach the craft of transforming cloth and military uniforms into works of art including, handmade paper, prints and books.

These artworks are both a personal form of therapeutic, artistic expression as well as a public testament for the participants of the workshop. The workshop experience creates an understanding between the civilian and the veteran, reconciling the experiences in conflict and military service as well as fostering community between misrepresented populations.

Combat Paper Schedule in King County:

- **Compass Veterans Center**, Renton
April 29, 30 & May 1, 2011 - Workshop for Veterans and Their Families (Residents Only)
2nd Session – May 2nd-4th - Workshop for Individual Veterans (Residents Only)
- **4Culture**, Seattle **[PHOTO OPPORTUNITY]**
May 5, 2011, 6-8pm (Evening Demonstration)
As a fairly self-contained unit, Combat Paper has taken to the streets to demonstrate papermaking, using uniforms or other clothing items of significance. Using their portable papermaking equipment, these street-happenings provide a place for the general public and veterans to have conversations about conflict and war, while learning the basic elements of papermaking.
- **Pratt Fine Arts Center**, Seattle
May 20, 2011 – 6:30pm: Artist Talk, with the founders of Combat Paper
May 21, 22, 23 2011 - Workshop ([Register](#))

Why King County?

These conversations are particularly relevant to our area because more than **670,000 veterans currently live in Washington State**, ranking it fifth in the nation according to the U.S. Census. Additionally, the American Community Survey estimates 163,000 veterans, active military and national guards or reserves

live in King County, with about half of those veterans residing in South King County and one quarter in Seattle. In 2005 King County voters approved a Veterans and Human Services Levy. Some of those funds were directed to provide housing assistance for veterans. In 2010, the Compass Veterans Center in Renton was completed. The housing includes 20 family and 38 single units and offers a range of onsite supportive services, a children's playground, meeting spaces for homeless veterans.

Workshops

Combat Paper has created flexible curricula for 1, 3 and 5 day workshops. Participants are encouraged to bring an article of clothing with personal significance. In many of the workshops, these items are uniforms. Other examples include a childhood outfit, clothing of a loved one or commemorative organizational shirt.

Rooted in the traditions of hand papermaking, Combat Paper workshops are led by experienced facilitators. They teach participants basic sheet formation using a mould and deckle that can then be used as the basis for creating journals, drawings, stories or poetry. They also expose participants to pulp printing using silk screen images, pulp painting, and basic binding techniques. Not all workshop participants are veterans or visual artists. Some are poets, some are writers, and some come simply for the shared experience.

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4Culture is a unique integration of the arts, heritage, preservation and public art; committed to advancing community through culture. Public exhibitions and performances, public art, preservation of significant sites and interpretation of local history deepen our connections to the places in which we live and work. 4Culture stimulates cultural activity and enhances the assets that distinguish a community as vibrant, unique and authentic.

