

## **Paper Possibilities 2017**

Paper is a curious medium. It is fragile, yet we use it to store some of our most valued information. It is flexible, yet in some cases very rigid. Its manipulation in all forms is ancient, and yet modern techniques have advanced our understanding of it to an incredible degree. We learn how to use it as small children, and there are lessons it teaches throughout life.

*Paper Possibilities* is a celebration of our understanding of paper as an expressive material. The artists in this exhibit come from a diverse set of backgrounds. Some are paper engineers, some work with cut paper, some are origami artists, and some find their expressions in the creation of the paper itself. For the viewer, the emotional range is vast, from the calmness of an untouched section of the sheet, to the natural feeling given by long fibers on a transparent material, to the dramatic sharpness of a crease. The medium remains constant, simply paper.

This is the first exhibition of the Paper Artist Gathering, a group based at the Hartford makerspace, MakeHartford. They have been working together and sharing techniques since November of 2015, and are ready to put forth their creations. Their goal is to demonstrate that despite its reputation as a common material, the potential for expressions in paper is not yet fully explored.