

CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

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CORCORAN TO PARTICIPATE IN ARTS AND MILITARY INITIATIVE
*Project Includes a Public Exhibition and Film Screening along with a Workshop for
Combat Veterans and Service Members*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design will participate in *Arts, Military + Healing: A Collaborative Initiative*, a series of workshops and events in Washington, D.C., May 13–18, 2012. A list of participating institutions and full schedule of events is available at <http://www.artsandmilitary.org>.

Fred Bollerer, director and president of the Corcoran, stated, “We are honored to participate in a program that gives the men and women who have served our country an opportunity for healing through the arts.”



On view at the Corcoran starting April 25, the exhibition *Veteran Made: Selections from the Combat Paper Project* celebrates the initiative that assists combat veterans in confronting their experiences through art and writing workshops. Military uniforms are cut up, beaten into a pulp, 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 in the military. The exhibition is curated by Lynn Sures, Chair of Fine Art, Corcoran College of Art + Design, and Jane Milosch, former curator of the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

A public reception in honor of the exhibition will be held Thursday, May 17, 7–9 p.m. at the Corcoran. Preceding the reception at 6 p.m., the Corcoran will screen *Where Soldiers Come From* (2011), a documentary that follows the four-year journey of childhood friends, forever changed by a faraway war. A discussion follows the screening with filmmaker Heather Courtney and Dominic “Dom” Fredianelli, a veteran in the film.

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From May 14 to 18, the Corcoran will host a workshop titled **From Uniforms to Paper and Creative Writing: Combat Paper Project and Warrior Writers**. Exclusively for service members and veterans, this workshop will explore both facilitated creative writing and hand papermaking through sessions that expose attendees to technique and to participation in group experiences. The workshop is led by Drew Cameron (Combat Paper Project) and Lovella Calica (Warrior Writers). To register, visit http://www.artsandmilitary.org/pages/workshop_3.php.

Currently, 17 students attend the Corcoran College of Art + Design with the help of funds from the Department of Veteran Affairs. As a participant in the Blue Star Museums initiative of Blue Star Families, the Corcoran Gallery of Art offers free admission year round to men and women on military active duty and their immediate family members.

About the Arts and the Military: Transforming War and Trauma Experiences through the Arts Initiative

This event in the nation's capital is an opportunity to highlight the myriad ways in which arts, crafts, and the United States military intersect, to help foster bridges between three important yet disparate worlds. This six-day program offers collaborative arts-focused workshops, a film screening, an exhibition, a presentation on the history of the arts and the military, and receptions. This series of workshops and events in Washington, D.C., May 13–18, involves the participation of Create Arts Center (Silver Spring, MD), Dance Place (Washington, D.C.), George Mason University (Fairfax, VA), the Library of Congress, Veteran's History Project (Washington, D.C.), National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, and the Veteran Artist Program (Baltimore, MD), as well as the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design. For more information, visit www.ArtsandMilitary.org.

About the Combat Paper Project

The Combat Paper Project utilizes art making workshops to assist veterans in reconciling and sharing their personal experiences as well as broadening the traditional narrative surrounding service 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, beaten into a pulp 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 in the military. The Combat Paper Project is based out of art studios throughout the United States and has traveled to Canada and the United Kingdom, providing veterans workshops, exhibitions, performances and artists' talks. This project is made possible by a multifaceted collaboration between artists, art collectors, academic institutions and veterans. For more information, visit www.combatpaper.org.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869. It was America's first dedicated art museum and today is Washington's largest nonfederal museum of art. It is known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European

painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. In addition, a dynamic schedule of special exhibitions is complemented and enhanced by a range of educational programming, which together seek to enrich perspectives, support the local arts community, and encourage interpretation. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year college of art and design, offering BFA degrees in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Fine Art Photography, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Photojournalism; a BA in Art Studies; a five-year Bachelor of Fine Arts/Master of Arts in Teaching (BFA/MAT); an AFA in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Photography; and MA degrees in Art and the Book, Art Education, Exhibition Design, Interior Design, Master of Arts in Teaching, and New Media Photojournalism. The College's Continuing Education program offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for children and adults and draws more than 2,500 participants each year. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.



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SPONSORSHIP OF THE EXHIBITION

Major support has generously been provided by The Walter Reed Society, Inc., Veteran Artist Program (Baltimore), The American Freedom Foundation, Azalea Charities, as well as The Friends of the Arts and the Military: Jim Earnest, Theodore Hamady, James Hayes, , Giselle and Ben Huberman, Nancy Patz, and Carol Tappert. The organization of this exhibition represents a collaboration between the Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Arts and The Military: (www.artsandmilitary.org), and Tara Tappert, Tappert & Associates, Archives and American Art Consultants, Washington, D.C.

Image:

Drew Cameron and Drew Matott (in collaboration with Green Door Studio, Burlington, VT). *Breaking Rank*. 2008. Pulp printing on combat paper. 29 x 51 inches.

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