



A FRIENDLY MIX of about 135 hand papermakers, book artists, historians, conservators, and scientists convened at the **Robert C. Williams Paper Museum** in Atlanta last fall for the annual meeting of **The Friends of Dard Hunter** (October 14–18, 2009). On campus at the Institute of Paper Science and Technology at Georgia Tech, the museum houses the invaluable personal collection of Dard Hunter, the renowned paper historian and Arts and Crafts designer.

Keynote speaker **Sukey Hughes**, author of the landmark publication *Washi: The World of Japanese Paper* (Tokyo: Kodansha International, 1978), encouraged mindfulness in craft, a contemplative practice she observed while studying papermaking in Japanese villages in the early 1970s. The conference coincided with the opening of **Sukey Hughes and the World of Japanese Paper: Return to the Source**, a pho-

Passion for Paper in Atlanta BY SALLY HANSELL

tography exhibit offering an intimate look at traditional papermaking in Japan, on view at the museum through January 29.

In a series of briskly paced presentations, papermaking scholar **Elaine Koretsky** discussed beaten bark cloth made by Chinese farmers while **Dard Hunter III**, the designer's grandson, modeled a bark-cloth suit. Artist and educator **Erica Spitzer Rasmussen** reviewed the history of paper garments. Chemist **Martin Hubbe** examined the differences between Eastern and Western techniques and the manipulation of cellulose fibers. A panel on sustainable practices touted "slow papermaking" with local materials: **Mary Tasillo** harvests mugwort from empty urban lots, while **Zina Castanuela** experiments with Queen Anne's lace, and **Patterson Clark** creates paper and inks from local invasive plants such as English ivy that he cooks in rainwater on a woodstove.

Hands-on workshops included a demonstration by the **Combat Paper Project** led by **Drew Matott**. Participants cut up combat uniforms and transformed them into pulp by pedaling a bicycle-powered Hydra Hollander beater designed by **Lee McDonald**. University of Alabama professor **Steve Miller** and students helped attendees make banana paper. **Helen Hiebert** taught how to create sculptural forms by embedding wire in translucent abaca.

The Neely Gallery at Georgia Tech's library is hosting an exhibit of Dard Hunter

members' artworks entitled **Make an Impression! The Art of Combining Handmade Paper and Print** through January 4. From their impressive craftsmanship to their exploration of diverse paths, members uphold the craftsman's legacy. For information about the Friends of Dard Hunter, www.friendsofdardhunter.org. For information: Combat Paper Project, www.combatpaper.org; Friends of Dard Hunter, www.friendsofdardhunter.org; Robert C. Williams Paper Museum, www.ipst.gatech.edu/amp.

LEFT: Bobbi Mastrangelo's The Sidewalk was Paved in Gold (handmade papers adhered to beveled foam core, water valve cover: cast paper with cheese cloth, acrylic and texture paints) from the Make an Impression! The Art of Combining Handmade Paper and Print exhibit. BELOW: Lee McDonald (left) and Drew Matott (right) check pulp made from combat uniforms in a Combat Paper Project demonstration at the Robert C. Williams Paper Museum, Atlanta. In the background Joyce Kierejczyk cuts up combat uniforms. Photo: Sally Hansell.



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