Frontline Paper is a program of Frontline Arts, a NJ non-profit arts organization with a mission to connect and build communities through socially engaging arts practices rooted in papermaking and printmaking.

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www.frontlinearts.org

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For a listing of our Accessibility Services, please visit www.frontlinearts.org

Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

www.frontlinepaper.org
www.facebook.com/frontlinepaper
For too long, we have lived in a time where veterans tend to suppress their experiences – producing a culture of the “silent veteran.” Frontline Paper (formerly known as Combat Paper NJ) is a unique art project that provides artistic tools, professional instruction, and community support to explore experiences through art. These workshops ultimately give participants the space to share their stories publicly, breaking the cycle of silence.

Our specialty is the transformative process of making paper from military uniforms. Through workshops, this handmade paper creates a platform for veterans and non-veterans to come together and share stories, providing a “new language” and much needed discourse between veterans and society. In casual drop-in sessions, on college campuses, in community centers, at pop-up street corner workshops, and at VA and military hospitals, veteran artists teach the art of papermaking and printmaking to veterans of all service eras.

**DECONSTRUCT**

Uniforms can hold dirt, blood, sweat, and memories. Each workshop session begins with the participants sharing their stories while cutting into the uniform. They deconstruct the uniform as they deconstruct the memories associated with it.

**RECLAIM**

The cut pieces of uniform are beaten into a pulp using specially designed papermaking equipment, creating a slurry of fibers and water. Sheets of paper are then pulled from the pulp and dried to create paper. In this process, the fibers and memories are reconstructed, reclaimed into something different - paper.

**COMMUNICATE**

Dried sheets of paper become the platform for veterans to communicate their stories. Through instructional periods, veterans integrate drawing, printmaking, and/or written words into their handmade paper using various techniques. Whether the blank paper, or a created image on the surface, each paper artwork tells a story through the language of papermaking.

**EVERYONE BECOMES A WITNESS**

Community-based events and Frontline Paper exhibitions are important opportunities for veterans to talk about their military service, and for society to hear stories from the veterans themselves. The practice of community-based art engages society, gives everyone a voice, and exposes the true complexity of the veteran experience. This sparks a dialogue of the raw realities of what it means to serve in the military, and live through the aftermath. These opportunities help the public better understand the complex veteran narrative, and raise awareness among witnesses that the current bridge built between veterans and society needs repairing.

### GET INVOLVED

**DONATE**
We are continually expanding and rely on donations from supporters like you.

[www.frontlinearts.org/donate](http://www.frontlinearts.org/donate)

**SPREAD THE WORD**
We need to reach new Veterans. Please tell Veterans or Veteran Service Providers you may know.

**SET UP A PROGRAM**
Call or email us to set up a workshop. We can offer one-day or multi-day presentations, demonstrations, workshops, artist talks, exhibitions, and more.

[www.frontlinearts.org/frontline-paper](http://www.frontlinearts.org/frontline-paper)

**BECOME A SPONSOR**
If you own a business, work for a foundation, or direct an organization, please contact us about becoming a sustaining sponsor.

Contact manda@frontlinearts.org

**PARTICIPATION IS FREE FOR ALL**
Contact us to find out about Frontline Paper activities in your area! We offer free workshops for veterans at our studios every Sunday from 12-4pm.

*“Transform” Aaron Hughes*

Pulp print on handmade paper from military uniforms

12” x 18” 2015