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Holy Origami

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Melanie Mullins

Logan, Utah

November 30, 2018

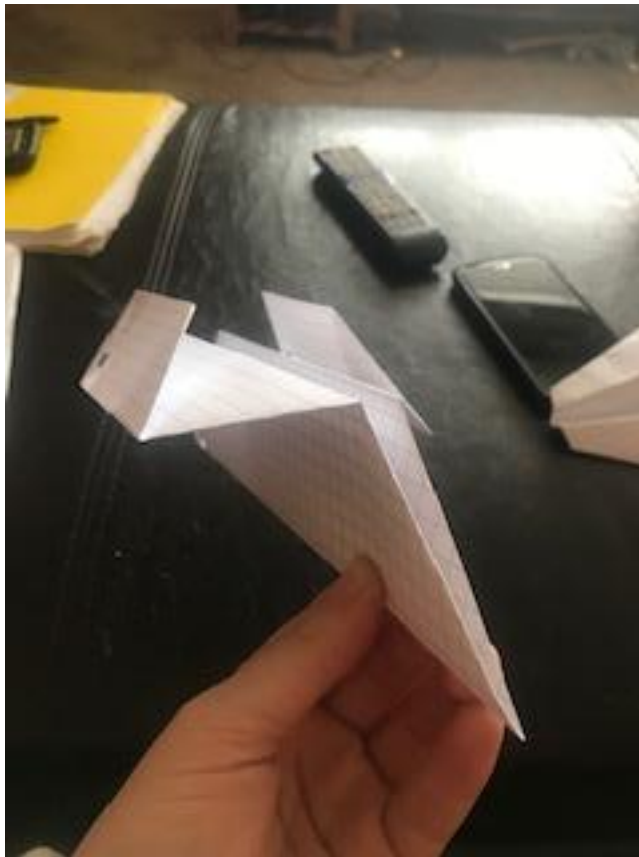
Title: Holy Origami

Genre: Material Culture

Informant: Melanie is my roommate and I have known her for about 4 months. She is very smart, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Latin. She always has a story to share, and has done a lot in her life, being only 24 years old. On the day of this paper airplane making event was her birthday.

Context: Melanie had just gotten back from eating lunch with her friend for her birthday. She is sitting on a chair, slumped over folding the airplane on an ottoman that is set in the middle of the room. She was handed a 11 x 8.5in. piece of graph paper to work with.

Text: Melanie used a 11 x 8.5in piece of graph paper to make the airplane.



Texture: Melanie began folding her airplane right away. She folded it hamburger way which is a beginning step I have not often seen. She said that her aunt Pepper taught her how to do origami and said "she did a ton of crap of origami. I was maybe 4 or 5, and that's what we would do in the middle of church. Make paper airplanes. I would also make the cranes and little fingers" at that I commented "ohhhh the claws??" and she agreed. She seemed very focused on her folding, not looking up but a few

times. No one else in the room said anything, nor watched. They were all focused on their own tasks. Melanie said she has never taught anyone to make a paper airplane and that she “usually pawns that on someone else to do.” She was very quick, making her airplane in only a couple minutes having been focused so intently. When she finished, she said, “I don’t know if this is going to do much but...” and threw it. It only went one foot ahead. She had made a bridge looking thing on top of her airplane which caught the air and angled it straight down into the ground. We both laughed at her failed attempt at a long-distance airplane but admired her craftsmanship and speed.

Courtney Smith

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ENGL 2210

Dr. Lynne S McNiell

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