

# Conceptual origami-based installations

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## Abstract

I describe my large scale sculptures created by folding flat sheets of paper in the tradition of origami, and study them by the means of ideas and methods of creation. The overview of methods and choices of pleat techniques used is based on works from 2012-2017.

Having my background in sculpture, I am interested in large-scale paper sculptures and their interactions with the surrounding space (Figure 1) and architecture (Figure 2). I develop my works in a hands-on intuitive approach having for now more than ten years' experience of working. Use of the most simple basic pleats give birth to unending combinations of ideas, conceptual artworks, surfaces and forms.

Why use paper folding in sculpture? "Folding possesses all of the sculptural qualities conducive to formative expressiveness (classic aesthetic contrasts, of protruding or receding relief, shadows and lights, straightness and curvature, direction, texture, and so forth). As for meaning, the law-like determinism of cause and effect that requires that a given configuration consistently results in a given role is such that each form can speak to us (such as the receptive invitation offered concavity). And it is possible to understand in words like simplicity, complexity and explanation what certain configurations of folds are able to express as etymological truth".\* Folding process' beauty and attractiveness are also means of art (Figure 3).



**Figure 1:** Anne Rudanovski, *Circular pleats*, 2014. Material: 130 g/m<sup>2</sup> paper.

Examples: as seen on Figure 1, fold patterns are essentially rhythmic. Repeating similar shapes while concerning the intellectual properties of geometry and proportion, opens endless poetry of creation.

Basic unit that I handle in my works is square. Paper sheet is folded into square grids making two sets of pleats parallel to the edges. The square may be divided into 8, 16, 32, 64 ... The next step is to divide each square by diagonals. I start folding with the most simple and common pleats – linear accordion folds. Then I use pre-folded diagonals and fold zigzag, mountain and valley folds all the way across the sheet. By gluing sides of rectangle sheet together I get a zigzag cylinder. It is then gathered together at one end so the rest of the material could be spread open. Rectangle must be long enough to allow the cylinder to flatten (Figure 1).



**Figure 2:** Anne Rudanovski, *The Tribute to medieval masters*, Installation views from St. John's Church, Tartu. Material: 130 g/m<sup>2</sup> paper.

Large-scale sculptures folded from one sheet of paper. Material size and weight limits must be taken into account beforehand in the planning process.



**Figure 3:** Anne Rudanovski, *Paper Boats*, Performance 2013. Material: paper waste from printing industry.

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\* Trebbi J., Genevaux, C., Bounoure, G. *The Art of Folding Vol. 2: New Trends, Techniques and Materials* 2017

\* Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/rudanovski/>