



# Is it Origami?

The Borders of Paper Folding

Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

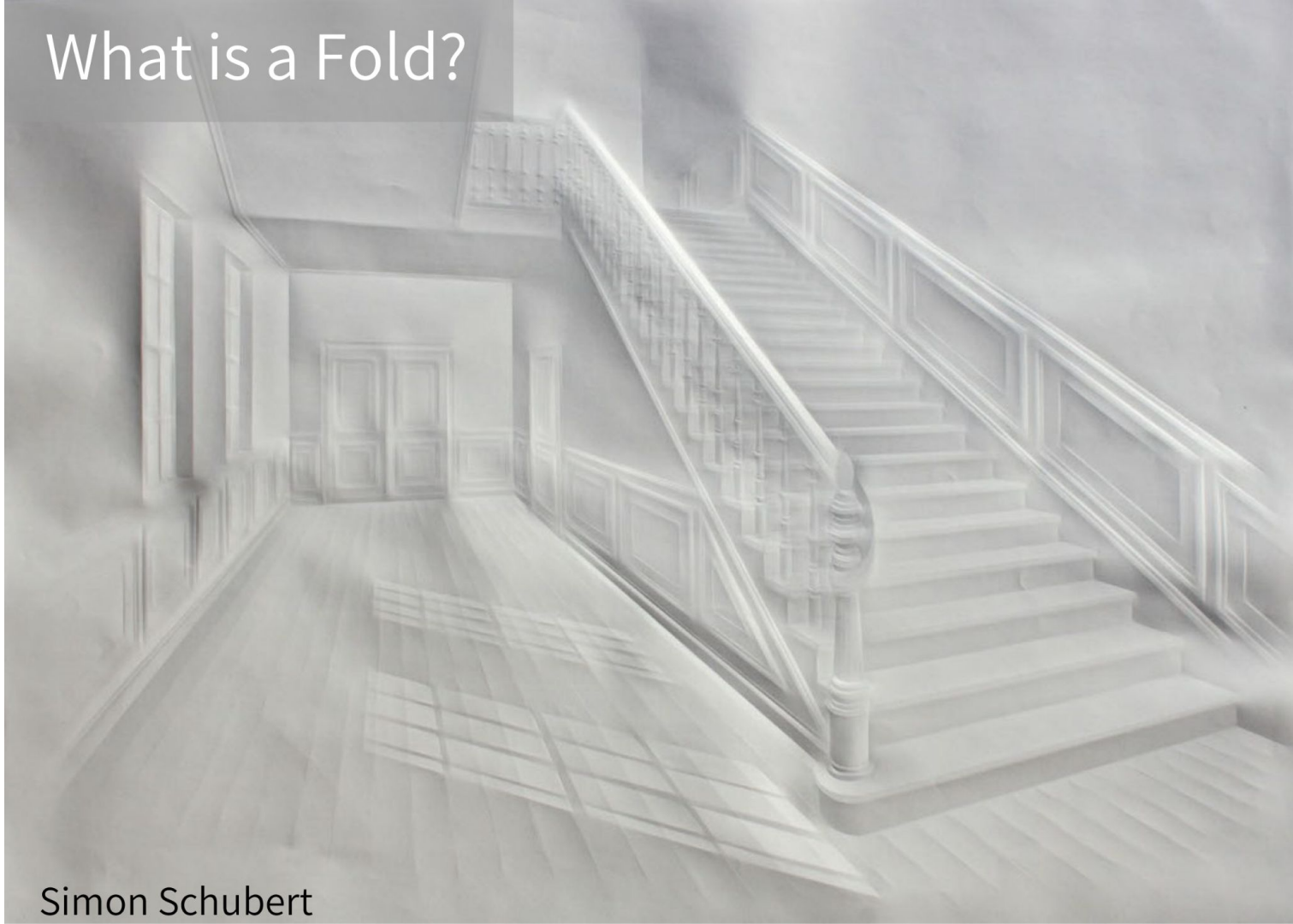
**CFC 6**

May 14-17, 2026

# Is it Original Origami?

The Borders of New Creation

# What is a Fold?



Simon Schubert

# A Fold

- A **transformation** of a **flat** sheet, so it is no longer flat, and in a way that this transformation is **important** to the resulting **shape**.
- Alternatively, a fold is a **change** in the plane of the paper, so you have at least a sheet of paper with **two areas** that do not share the same plane.

# The Art (Act?) of Paper Folding

- When the creative process is directly related (as the outcome) to the folding process - we will define it as Paper folding (AKA origami - **is it not the time to change that?**).
- It can also involve assembling but not necessarily.
- New arrangements of known folds (as twists or pleats) meet this criterion.

# The Art (Act?) of Paper Folding

Alternative question - where will you put this person on the scale of paper folding?

Would you be able to discuss with him the hardships of closed sink, or what is the better way to fold the preliminary base?



A sumo  
wrestler

Common  
folder

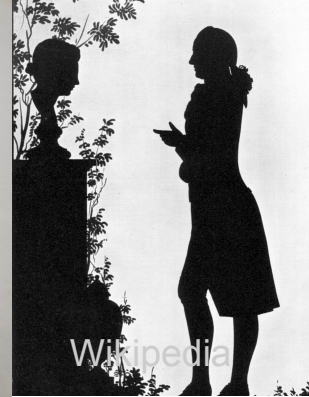
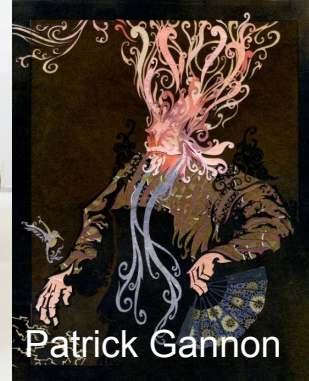
Satoshi  
Kamiya

# Why do we need to find the Borders?

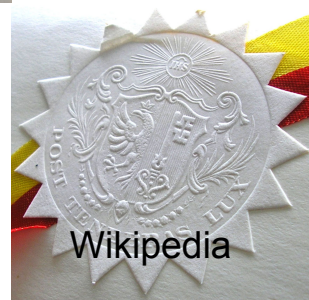
- Decide who can become a CFC member
- Accept works for the Joisel Award

# Paper Art or Craft

- Pop UP/Kirigami
- Quilling
- Flexagons
- Gift Wraps
- Golden Venture
- Knotology
- Paper Cut
- Papier-Mâché

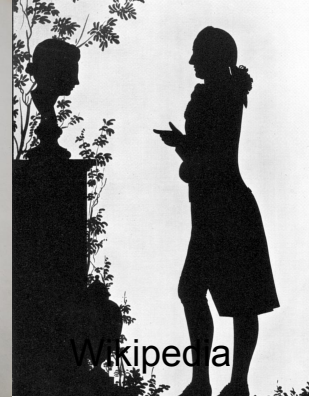
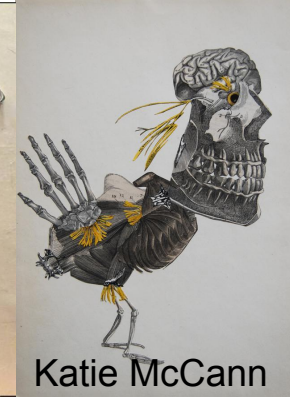
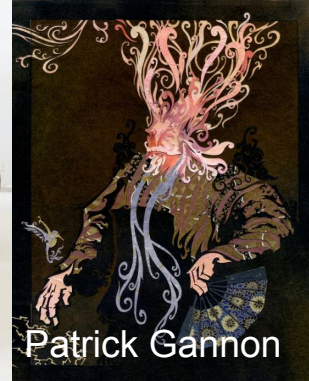
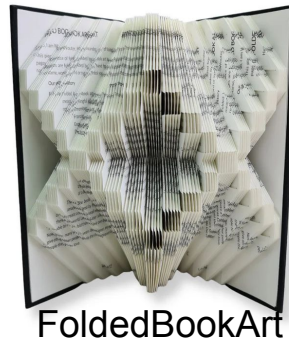


- Collage
- Silhouette
- Paper Embossing
- Book Folding

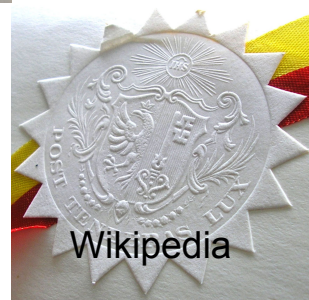


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# A Cut

- Octagon = a square that you cut out or fold in its four corners.
- A cut that extends the perimeter of the paper is legitimate.
- A cut that adds a perimeter inside the paper is just a valid - slits or holes.

## **Alternatively**

- Every folded paper is cut before you fold it, to get the initial shape and size you wish.
- So cuts are not the real question, but the starting shape.
- The starting shape is not relevant to the question of whether the paper is folded or not.

A cut

In!

# Pop Up

- Pop-Up have folds and cuts. Is it in?
- The fold must be substantial to the final results, and not the cuts.
- With Pop Up, you get the sapes from the cuts, and not the folds.

Pop Up

Out

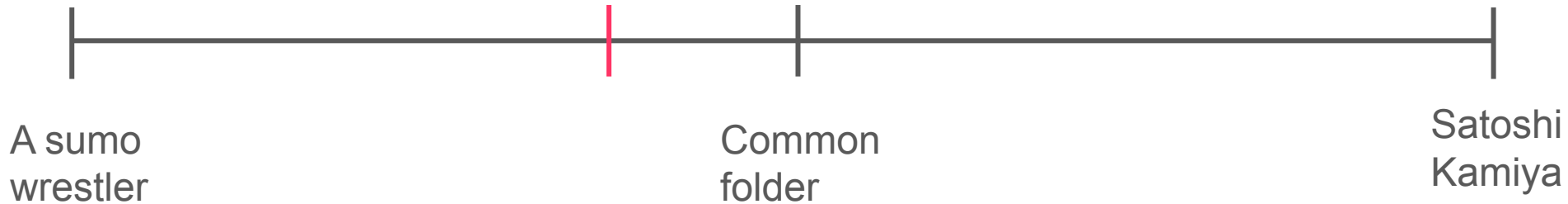
# Flexagons

Mainly made and works thanks to real fold lines.



# Flexagons

In!



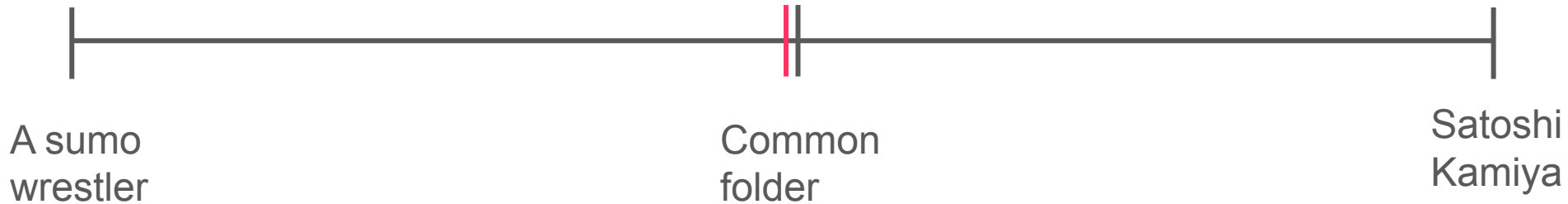
# Gift Wraps

Mainly made and works thanks to real fold lines.



# Gift Wraps

In!



# Pixelated Creation

The ability to create any shape you wish with disregard to the shape of the unit, just by using enough repetitions of it.

# Pixelated Creation



# Pixelated Creation

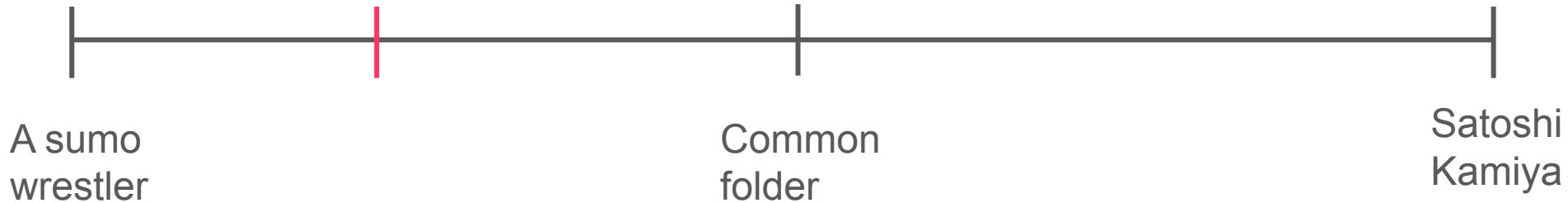


Pixelated Creation

In or out?

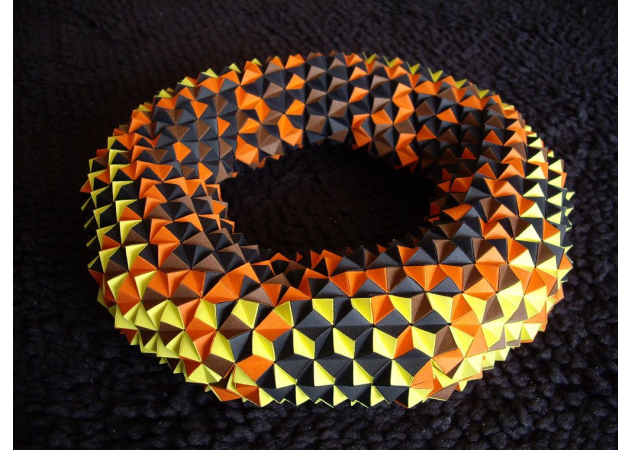
# Pixelated Creation

out



# Knotology

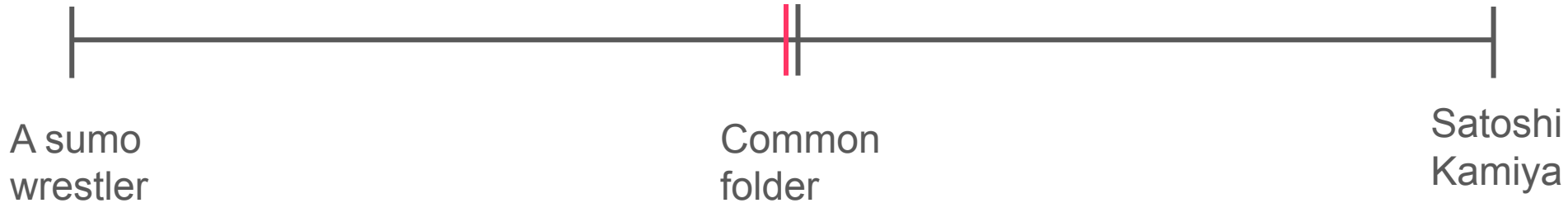
- Mainly made and works thanks to real fold lines.
- Is the fold a substantial part of making the shape, or is it a pixel?
- “New arrangements of known folds (as twists or pleats) meet the criterion.”



Heinz Strobl Sphere94 folded by Rosa  
Toros, by Dasa Severova

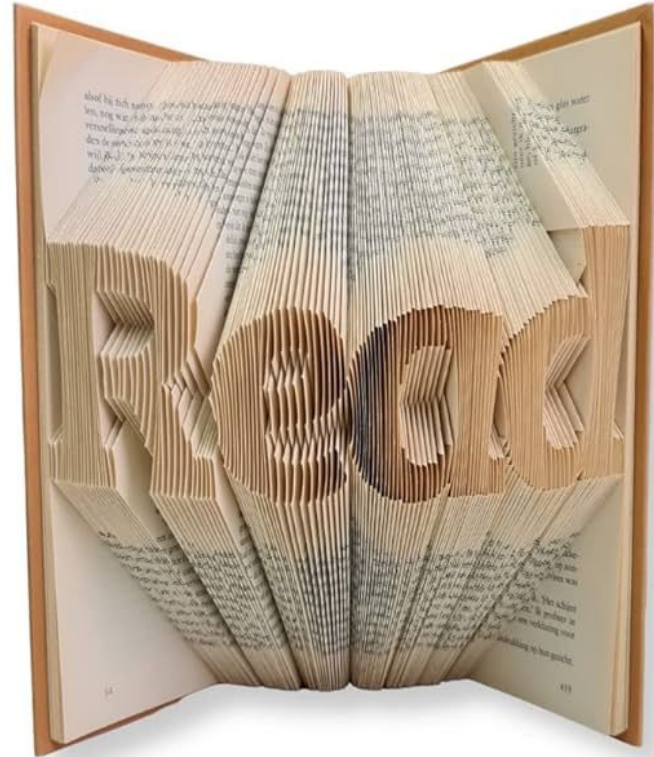
# Knotology

# In



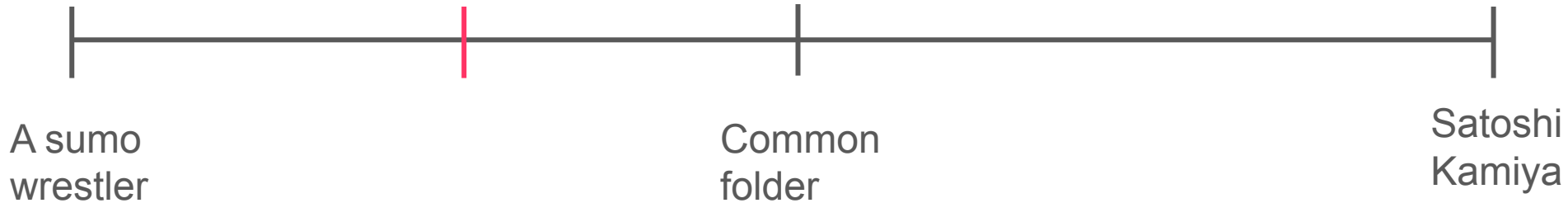
# Book Folding

- Works thanks to real fold lines.
- Folds can be replaced with cuts
- The work is made by assembly of the same fold, in different lengths.



# Book Folding

out



# Is it Original Origami?

The Borders of New Creation

# The Pixel of Creativity

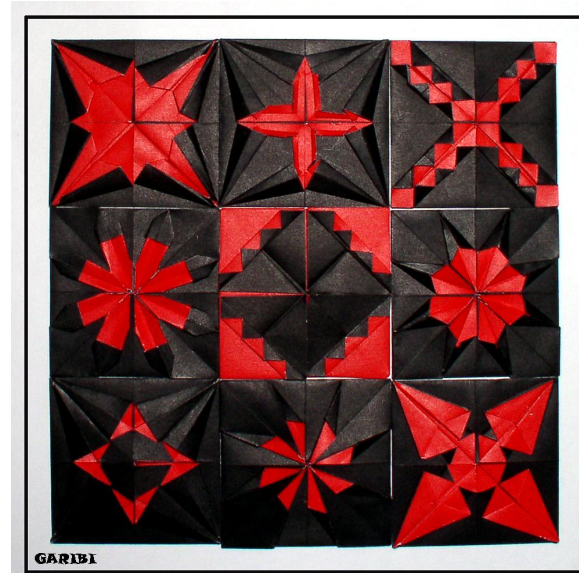
- What is the minimum amount of change to say this is a new creation? This amount equals **1 creative unit**.
- Unfortunately, no one can define that...
- So when can we say this is a new creation?

# The Pixel of Creativity

- When a model presents new ideas, made by a new folding process - yes.
- When the change is minor, and follows the same logic as the original - no.
- When the variation asks for little effort and innovation - no.
- When the variation asks for a high level of understanding and ability - yes.

# Original Creation - Test Cases

1. **Paper balls** - no, since there is no intention in the process.
2. **New variations on the windmill base** - no.
3. **New variations on the Butterflies by Lafosse, following his book** - no.



# Original Creation - Test Cases

1. **New variations on a twist fold tess** - yes. You need a high level of understanding to organize a collection of twists. A new arrangement of twists (or other types of molecules) is also included.
2. **Modular Tessellations** - no. The assembly is trivial to recreate once you know how to make the unit. The unit is a creation but the assembly is an application/variation only. The unit's creator can create the assembly and this will be considered origami, but not as a new creation.

