

THE ART OF

PAPER

CRAFT

**unique one-sheet projects using
ORIGAMI, WEAVING, QUILLING, POP-UP,
and other inventive techniques**

HELEN HIEBERT

Foreword by MICHAEL G. LaFOSSE



Lynn Sures, *Frasassi*, 2016. Cotton base sheets painted with pigmented flax pulp, with beeswax and thread; dimensions variable: each element is approximately 12" x 18". (Installation at Southwest School of Art.)

TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURAL "WASTE" INTO SUSTAINABLE JOBS

Matt Simpson founded Green Banana Paper in Kosrae, Micronesia, one of the most remote islands in the world. Simpson had learned that the island's younger generations were being forced to trade their homes and families for minimum-wage jobs in the United States, and he started his paper company as a social enterprise to help address the scarcity of job opportunities on the island. Today, Green Banana Paper combines the traditional art of hand papermaking with printing and stitching techniques using modern manufacturing technology. The company provides jobs, skill development, and sustainable exports for the community of 6,000.

The island of Kosrae is covered with banana trees that provide local families with sweet bananas. After local farmers complete the banana harvest, the trees are chopped down so that new fruit-bearing offshoots can grow. Green Banana Paper buys the leftover agricultural "waste," and its team of artisans transforms the natural fibers into beautiful wallets. These handmade vegan wallets are naturally resistant to water, fire, and rips.

