

OBSERVATION

Paper boon:
the artists who
are cutting
things fine

BY TIM WALKER

●●● If you thought paper art was all origami swans, think again. A new book, *Paper: Tear, Fold, Rip, Crease, Cut*, proves that even in the digital age, the flimsy, unassuming material has an unmatched capacity for sculptural beauty. *Paper* brings together the work of leading cutters, folders, even fashion designers, all of whom produce plans and finished products, in paper.

Richard Sweeney, who wrote the book's foreword, began using a CAD system to create three-dimensional geometric shapes as part of the sculptural process. Only later did he decide that the paper he used to model his proposed sculptures was, in fact, his preferred medium. His works include *Mobius*, a series of suspended, spiralling paper pleats commissioned for the window displays at Selfridges.

Sweeney's fellow folders include Won Park, a Korean-born immigrant to the US, who makes complex origami miniatures from dollar bills. One of Park's witty cultural mash-ups is a tiny koi carp that incorporates the design flourishes on the bill itself into the fish's features.

The paper-cutters include Claire Brewster who chops migrating birds from the pages of discarded atlases. Ingrid Siliakus constructs Escher-like architectural mobiles from single sheets of card. And Noriko Ambe's cut-and-layered paper carvings resemble rock formations eroded over the millennia.

Ambe, along with the likes of Cara Barer, Brian Dettmer and Robert The, also makes magnificent new works out of existing books, turning everything from the phone book to Baudelaire into otherworldly shapes and intertextual *objets d'art*.

The fashion world has found a place for paper, too. Fashion designer Gary Harvey created a couture dress from 30 recycled copies of *The Financial Times*; menswear specialist Michael Cepress has turned old Yellow Pages into *Collars for the Modern Gentleman*; and Cashmere, the Canadian toilet paper manufacturers, each year holds a fashion show featuring bog-roll ball-gowns by leading Canadian couturières.

Paper: Tear, Fold, Rip, Crease, Cut is published by Black Dog, £24.95.



This bird has flown: images by the artists Claire Brewster and Won Park from 'Paper: Tear, Fold, Rip, Crease, Cut'



performed by innovative theatre company Hydrocracker at last year's Brighton Festival. The show has now been recorded live and turned into an afternoon radio play. Actors masquerade as waiters, after the "real" actors fail to arrive from Stratford. The audience orders extracts of Shakespeare from *Hamlet* or *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, say, amid catering jokes and bustling restaurant background.

Richard Hahlo, one of Hydrocracker's Artistic Directors, explains, "At first the audience were really surprised that the actors weren't going to be there but then they worked it out. It's a real crowd pleaser."

Meanwhile, food shoppers at Sainsbury's in Forest Hill and Lee Green in South London should look out for the Teatro Vivo performance collective, who will be putting on *Supermarket Shakespeare* in the two stores until the beginning of May. Inspired by *Sonnet 91* and Shakespeare's birthday on 23rd April, six actors will play out intertwining modern stories each evening for an hour. Which should make the weekly grocery run far more entertaining. www.teatrovivo.co.uk

A stormer in
a teacup

BY EMMA LOVE

●●● If you thought that porcelain teacups were just made for drinking from then you'd be wrong, apparently they're made for dancing around too. As part of the forthcoming theatrical dance piece, *The Porcelain Project*, which is being performed at the Barbican on 14th and 15th April during London's Spill Festival of performance, live art and experimental theatre, all manner of crockery will be dangling from the ceiling. Dancers will weave in and out of teacups, teapots and tiny spoons in a fantasy world of power, lust and desire.

Choreographed by Grace Ellen Barkey, co-founder of Brussels-based performance company Needcompany, the piece is inspired by the strange rituals of past Kings. "Both Lot Lemm at Needcompany and I have always been interested in porcelain so we bought an oven, put it in the basement and began to make porcelain objects," she explains. "We started talking about the craziness of

Kings like George III and the strange rituals they had. Kings wandering around in a world of porcelain work well together."

Spill has over 100 events performed by companies from around the world, including *A Forest*, an adult fairytale, *Ringside*, which remembers traditional Turkish family weddings and *Saving the World*, a day



Merry dance: Needcompany perform at the Barbican MIEL VERHASSELT

THE BAROMETER

What's hot...

Polly Stenham

... and what's not

Architects