

## **Peace Paper Project comes to campus**

9/11/13

Drew Matott and Margaret Mahan of the Peace Paper Project will lecture on their work at Alfred University on Wednesday, Sept. 25 in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center, at both 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Following the morning lecture, they will also conduct a pulping demonstration and workshop in the Powell Campus Center lobby at 11 a.m. The sessions are open to the public free of charge.

The Peace Paper Project is an international art venture that uses papermaking as a form of community building and social action. Matott and other members of the project travel across the country inviting communities to participate in workshops and pulp meaningful fabric into works of art.

The Peace Paper Project website notes, “For two millennia, humankind has created paper by hand. Whatever the intention behind the paper, be it to represent wealth, to carry spirituality, or to convey messages, every fiber that goes into the making of paper has a story to tell.

“Today, Peace Paper works to empower healing arts communities by introducing collaborative art processes that foster positive forward thinking, enhanced communication, and peaceful reconciliation.

“Through hand papermaking, writing, book and printmaking activities, we work together to transform significant articles of clothing into works of art that broadcast personal stories, mutual understanding and healing.”

Matott, headquartered in Gouverneur, NY, holds a master of fine arts degree in book and paper arts from Columbia College-Chicago as well as a bachelor of fine arts degree in printmaking from Buffalo State College. In addition to co-founding and facilitating the Peace Paper Project, he has taught printmaking and papermaking courses at a number of colleges, including Massachusetts College of Art and Edgewood College, completed several art residencies, and exhibited his paper works internationally.

Mahan, who works out of Portsmouth, RI, earned a bachelor of arts degree in English literature from Saint Michael's College, Vermont. Her work is focused on community collaboration and social action, including designing and implementing Panty Pulping workshops for the Peace Paper Project, working with community members at shelters and on college campuses to make paper in solidarity against sexual and domestic violence. Previously, she has traveled to India to work with the group Tibet Writes, taught creative writing and monoprinting at schools across the United States with the Combat Paper Project, and exhibited internationally as a resident artist in Paris, France and Bilbao, Spain.