

# OLD WORLD ORIGAMI



**ORIGAMI**, the art of folding paper, has been part of Japan's history for hundreds of years. After learning the art of papermaking, the Japanese created **WASHI**, a special kind of paper that was thin but strong. This paper was perfect for making folded decorations which were used for special occasions like ceremonies, to decorate temples, and even as gifts. *Washi* was originally hard to make and expensive, so only wealthy people could afford to use it for origami. During the Edo period (1603-1868), it became easier to make paper faster and in larger amounts, which allowed more people in Japanese society to practice the art of origami. Today, origami is a popular paperfolding technique and is enjoyed by people all around the world!



## TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!

**WASHI** is used in many other artistic creations as well. *Kimono* artist Maria Papatzelou implements *washi* paper as the base of her paper kimonos. Although these kimonos are not created using origami, the *washi* paper acts as a strong base for the additional materials she adds like Japanese maps, gold leaf, and various pigments.

Investigate Papatzelou's artwork in the gallery to inspire your own kimono creations!

**WASHI IN THE GALLERIES:** Maria Papatzelou, *Kawakami Mythical Dream*, 2021, Japanese handmade paper (washi), pigments, aquarelle pencils, monoprints, collage with old Japanese maps and sumi-e painting



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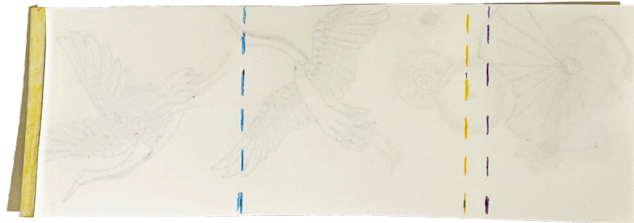
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# FOLDED FASHION

Follow the step-by-step directions below to complete your four origami kimonos using the patterns you create on the next page.

**1.** Fold the bottom edge so that the crease is on the **green** dotted line.



**2.** Fold the paper along the **blue** dotted line to meet the **yellow** dotted line.



**3.** Fold the top section of the paper backwards along the **purple** line.



**4.** Fold the small rectangle in half vertically, then open the rectangle back up.



**5.** Fold down one corner of the top layer to the middle crease line. Make sure to repeat on the other corner.



**6.** Fold the side in vertically, making sure that the edge of the paper meets the edge of the collar of the kimono. Repeat on the other side.



**7.** At the top of the folded section, near the collar, open the paper so that a small triangle forms. Then press down to create a crease on the edges of the triangle. Repeat on the other side.



**8.** Fold the top section of the kimono back, so that the bottom edge of the triangle is on the top of the shoulder.



**PATIENCE IS  
A VIRTUE!**

## FANTASTIC FABRICS

Use the colored pencils and paint pen provided to complete the four different kimono fabric designs below. Then, cut out each patterned section along the dotted lines. Use the instructions to create four distinct origami kimonos.

**HINT:** colored, dotted guidelines appear on the backside to help as you fold your kimono!



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ARTWORK WITH US!

