

HOW TO BETTER DISPLAY FOLDS AT ORIGAMI CONVENTIONS

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If you are very proud of what you folded, it is not enough to just "put it in sight". It is worth the effort to make your work stand out before the public. That is why you will find below some tips to better display your folds at origami conventions.

It is best if these are implemented by the people organizing the exhibition and guide the participants that will exhibit, but individual origamists can also take great advantage of each tip.

DON'TS

1. Don't just place all your folds on a table.
2. Don't fill the space with too many folds. Less is more.
3. Don't mix your own folds with those of others for no reason.

DOS

1. Plan your own display with time; make sure every model will have enough space around it. Take a photo to guide you when you reassemble the display on the site.

2. Raise your folds to their proper view angle. The table-level is too low for exhibiting standing models. You will find some ideas to do that below.
3. Try to select an area with good lighting. It may prove impossible in most places, but sometimes some areas have better lighting than others.
4. You can often take advantage of the wall behind your work.

A THEME

1. Instead of just displaying different folds you made during the year, you can plan with time a theme for what you will exhibit. If you plan months in advance, you will be able to fold all the models you planned specifically for your theme.
2. Having a theme, allows your folds to tell a story to the public instead of just being a senseless and chaotic group of models.
3. Here are some examples of themes:
 - a. All the models from a particular origami book
 - b. From childhood to adulthood
 - c. The silver rectangle
 - d. Under the sea

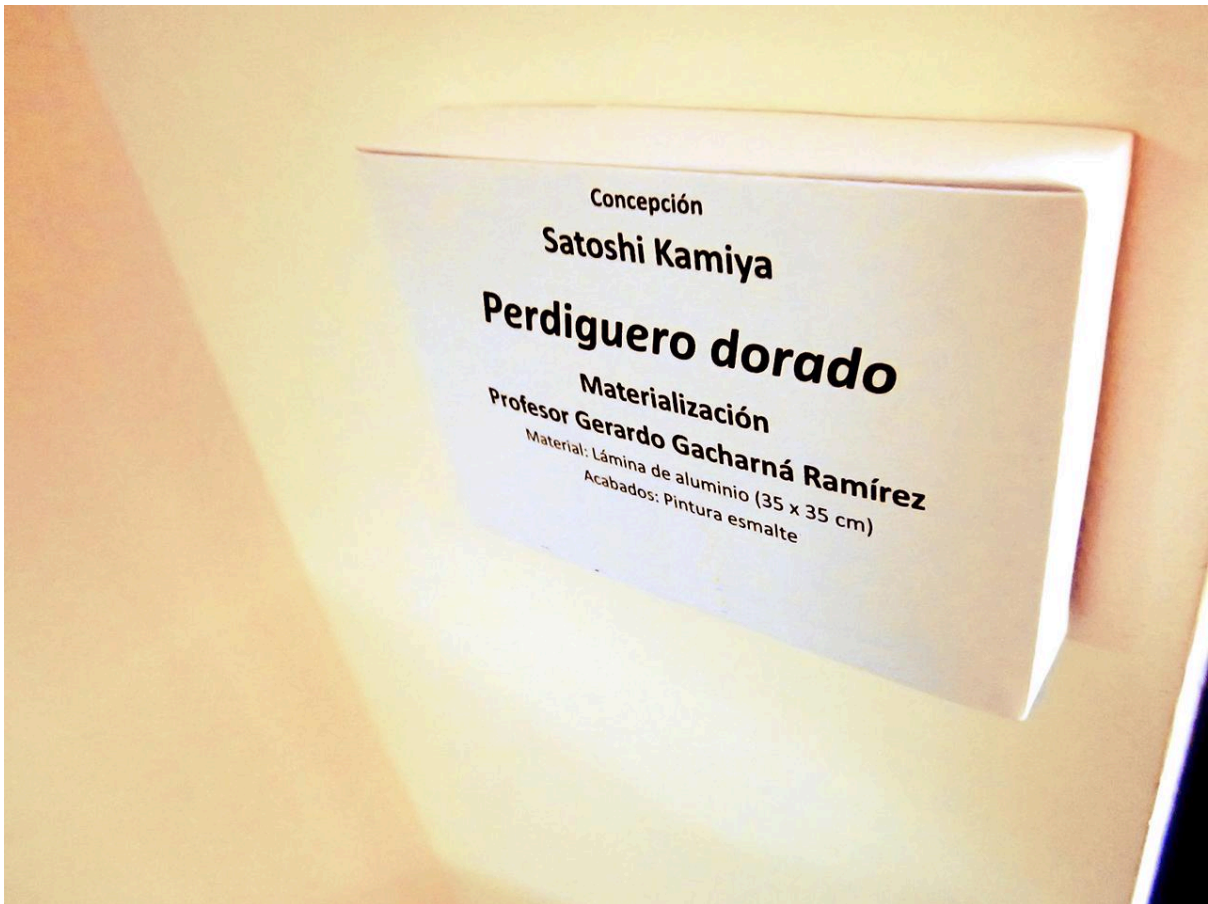
LABELS FOR FOLDS

1. Labels suggest that you are facing intellectual works rather than "figurines". Besides that, it is ethical to offer proper credits.
2. In most cases, a printed label is better than a handwritten one, but either one will always be better than no label.
3. You can include:
 - a. Who created the model, and who made its fold?
 - b. What is the model's name?
 - c. A small photo of the model, especially useful when the labels are located at a distance from the folds.
 - d. When was it created, and when was it folded?
 - e. Through what technique?
 - f. What materials were used?

- g. Why did you create and/or fold the model?
4. It can be a simple printed portion of a sheet of paper, or it can be an origami model which purpose is to present the information in a striking way.



Sandwich-Board-Style Sign, created by Gerardo Gacharná Ramírez, used as a label for a fold. | International Origami Facatativá Convention 2013 (photo by Sergio León Sánchez).



Variation of the lid from *Box with Lid 2*, original version created by Philip Shen, used as a label for a fold. Solo exhibition at ESDIART.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORIGAMIST

1. A larger label can say a little about the owner of the mind and hands responsible for the folds on display.
2. Like in the case of labels for folds, it is best if you print the information.
3. You can look for web pages about artist bios and artist statements to think about what to write, for example: [Artist Statement vs. Artist Bio](#)



Sandwich-Board-Style Sign, created by Gerardo Gacharná Ramírez, with personal information. | International Origami Facatativá Convention 2013.

BACKGROUND

1. A background for your folds will draw the limits between your work and that of the origamists next to you.

2. A background with a color that contrasts the color of your folds will better expose your work and catch the eye of the public.
3. Bring to the convention paper or fabric to use as a screen or background for your folds. Sometimes, the surfaces provided at the exhibition area will not work well with your pieces; for instance, a white table cloth for folds made in white paper.
4. Look carefully at the area of your folds and think how it will look in pictures. Quite often you will notice unwanted objects in the background, for instance a light switch or a heater at the back. You can use sheets of paper or fabric to hide them.
5. Fabric is very easy to pack and take along.



Fabric and knitted net as background. Krystyna Burczyk's works at CfC2 in Zaragoza 2020 (photo by W. Burczyk).



Wallpaper with a contrasting color as background. Folds by Beata Kupczak at the Outdoor Origami Meeting, Kraków 2018 (photo by W. Burczyk).

DISPLAY STANDS AND BASES

1. Small sculptures are usually placed on display stands in order to draw more attention. They are small pedestals that are placed on a table.
2. A display base is shorter than a display stand. Often being less than 2 cm tall and also often being made of wood.
3. You can use a simple origami poster board box, with various layers and placed upside down, as a display base or stand. If the box has a single layer, it will probably curve and buckle under the weight of the fold on display. The traditional masu box is a very good option, which has at least two layers on every side. It is best if you score the sheet before folding.



An origami box as a display-stand for *Three-drawer Organizer*, model created by Gerardo Gacharná Ramírez. | International Origami Facatativá Convention 2013.

4. *Origami Stand*, created by Jo Nakashima, is an example of an origami-made display base. Following this link, you will find a video that shows you how to fold it:
<https://youtu.be/Rn8RUBJFEw>
5. If you do not want to raise the fold, a simple piece of paper beneath is enough for it to catch more attention. You can save material and space if you simply print the label on a corner of a sheet of paper and place the model on top of the rest of the sheet.

6. In order to help a fold stand up, Vincent Achard created [*Pointed square*](#) as a display base with a lifted tip that serves as a support. Its diagrams are included in the book *Practigami*:

<https://www.amazon.com/Practigami-by-different-origamists-2013-12-24/dp/1495203026>



Pointed Square, created by Vincent Achard, as a display base for the traditional butterfly.

7. In the case of kusudama and similar models, a rolled sheet of paper can work well as a display base since both holes will be hidden.
8. If you use a box to take your folds to the exhibition, you can also use it as a display stand. Just cover it first with cloth or paper.



Alessandra Lamio and Alessandro Beber's stand, made from cardboard boxes. Outdoor Origami Meeting, Kraków 2018 (photo by W. Burczyk).

PEDESTALS

1. Pedestals, placed on the floor, are often a better idea than tables to exhibit folds.
2. You can use tape, with a strong color, on the floor to demarcate exactly how close people can get to the pedestals and the folds in display.
3. Different origamists have also created pedestals in origami



Pedestal and Shopping Bag, both created by Gerardo Gacharná Ramírez. Solo exhibition at ESDIART.

DISPLAY CASES

1. A display case protects a fold from dust, among other things. It can be made of acrylic glass.



A fold of *Golden Retriever*, created by Satoshi Kamiya, inside an acrylic glass display case. IV International Origami Facatativá Convention 2016.

2. You can make a simple and inexpensive display case by using a transparency sheet. For that:
 - a. Cut a shape like the Red Cross symbol.
 - b. Fold down the four flaps. It is best if you score the sheet before that.
 - c. Fold outwards, in 90° angles, the edges of the cross, so the walls do not curve
 - d. Tape together the walls. Electrical tape is a good option.



Bento Box, created by Gerardo Gacharná Ramírez, inside a transparency sheet display case. IV International Origami Facatativa Convention 2016.

3. Most origami boxes will not work as display cases, the accumulation of layers would ruin the visibility of the model inside, even if it is a transparency sheet.
4. Some origami display case models exist.



A real apple displayed inside *Panel Box*, created by Gerardo Gacharná Ramírez, using transparency sheets as its sides.

DISPLAY SHELVES

1. You can use display shelves on the wall to present your folds.
2. V'ann Cornelius has created more than one design of display shelves made in origami.



Bookshelf created by V'Ann Cornelius, *Square Box 1* created by Tomoko Fuse, and *Star Flower 2* (topper) created by Emily Sue Kwan (photo and folds by Deanna Kwan).

SHADOW BOXES

1. Similar to display shelves, you can also use shadow boxes hanging on walls to show your folds. Shadow boxes tend to be not as wide as display shelves, so do not use them for models that take too much space.
2. If you plan to use a common shadow box (not made from origami), then first find out if you can hang something like that at the exhibition. Also, do not use anti-glare glass on a shadow box. Objects that are not flat and against the anti-glare glass, tend to look blurry.
3. An origami box folded from poster board and taped to a wall, a traditional masu box, for example, can serve as a shadow box at a convention exhibition. It is best if you score the sheet before folding.

4. Different origamists have created shadow boxes using origami.



Shadow Box, created by Gerardo Gacharná Ramírez.

FRAMES

1. Some, but not all, flat models look better inside a frame hanging on a wall. Some others look better with a bit of relief from the paper's resistance. So, first, judge if your flat fold would look better inside a frame or not.
2. If you plan to use a common frame (not made from origami), then first find out if you can hang something like that at the exhibition. If so, then it is best to use anti-glare glass. With it, people can contemplate the fold inside the frame without being bothered by the reflection of the surroundings on the glass, and it will all look much better in pictures.
3. *Glazed Picture Frame*, created by Gerardo Gacharná Ramírez, is an example of an origami frame for flat objects.



A real dry leaf inside *Glazed Picture Frame*, created by Gerardo Gacharná Ramírez, using acrylic glass.

4. You can backlight tessellations using LED frames and electricity.



Folds by Miguel Gañán of his own models, including tessellations inside LED frames. Origami Argentina Mar del Plata 2018 (photo by M. Gañán).

ACRYLIC PHOTO DISPLAYS

1. Some are for hanging and some others for placing standing up on a surface. You can use a rectangular display to also insert the label with the information of the fold.



Tessellations from different creators, folded by Miguel Gañán, and labels inside acrylic photo displays. Origami Argentina Santa Fe Convention (photo by M. Gañán).

FOLDING SCREENS

1. When using a table, to create a division between your work and that of another origamist, or to create a background for your own folds, place a poster board rectangle with a series of vertical pleats in order to make it stand up. It is best if you score the sheet before folding.
2. It is easier to make a folding screen stand up with fewer pleats, but it can take more space. And it will take less space if it has more pleats, but it will be harder to make it stand up. You have to find the best point between both extremes.



Folding screen, with many pleats, as background for the kusudama created and folded by Krystyna Burczyk at the AEP convention, Sevilla 2019 (photo by W. Burczyk).

IF YOU ORGANIZE A CONVENTION EXHIBITION

1. Think in advance.
2. If there are windows, arrange them as backlit panels for tessellations.
3. If there are large tables shared by several people, which is very common at conventions, prepare dividers for their folds.
4. Krystyna Burczyk, as an exhibition organizer at the Outdoor Origami Meeting, has used paper rolls and string as dividers. These are just two possible ideas.



Paper rolls as dividers at the exhibition of the Outdoor Origami Meeting, Kraków 2017 (photo by W. Burczyk).



Dividers made of string at the exhibition of the Outdoor Origami Meeting, Kraków 2018 (photo by W. Burczyk).

5. People often put their boxes and suitcases under the tables. You can hide this by arranging on the table, beforehand, cloth or paper sheets that are large enough to completely cover the front side.

6. Prepare a toolbox with labels, scissors, glue, adhesive tape, putty, copy paper in different colors, string, fishing line, thread and needle, pins, etc., anything that can help participants better set up their display.