PRESS RELEASE:

The A.D. Gallery at UNC Pembroke is delighted to present:

**Pushing Paper: An Invitational Exhibition of Paper Art**

January 12 – February 14, 2009

Reception: Wednesday, January 12, 4-5:30pm

Artist Talk: Wednesday, January 12, Mia Pearlman; 11:30am-12:15pm / Karen Margolis; 12:15-1pm

This exhibition features a range of works by five artists representing paper as a distinctive and richly diverse medium within contemporary art.

Paper is changeable and enduring, fragile and strong; it can be manipulated in multiple ways. In this exhibition artists take these basic ideas and explore the boundaries of paper in both content and form, taking it beyond traditional notions of utility and function to represent it as an extremely flexible medium in art.

The artists in this exhibition employ a wide range of techniques and styles, including mixed-media assemblages, cut paper installations, and papier-mâché techniques, with subject matter ranging from nonrepresentational to biological and narrative to geographical. Brian Dettmer is noted for his conceptual explorations and sculptural dissections of old books, maps, record albums, and cassette tapes to re-contextualize the imagery that lies within, revealing hidden messages. Dettmer’s meticulous dissections require the use of clamps, scalpels and tweezers.

Crystal Wagner’s work involves layered mylar and cut paper and is based on the intersections between synthetic and organic, real and unreal, abstract and concrete. Wagner’s work references nature, anatomy and landscape and offers traditional and nontraditional approaches; drawing, printmaking, collage, and sculpture.

Mia Pearlman’s site-specific cut paper installations are simultaneously two and three dimensional, blurring the line between actual, illusionistic and imagined space. Evocative of natural elements such as clouds, rain, or wind, Pearlman’s ephemeral paper sculptures glow with natural or artificial light appearing frozen in a mysterious moment.
Karen Margolis’ mixed-media works involve burning holes into surfaces such as maps and Abaca paper to produce lattices of voids and shadows. In her work, Margolis explores the mind’s architecture, mapping out her thoughts, feelings, and memories into molecular patterns evocative of chemical interactions generated in the brain. Margolis’ suspended installation Continuum is made of handmade abaca and linen paper, maps, and wire, offering a cloudlike collection of ethereal paper forms.

Jane Ingram Allen’s geographically inspired Taipei Site Maps includes representations of many different places in and around Taipei. Allen created these works on handmade paper from 27 different plants collected in Taiwan. Her process involves placing the wet handmade paper sheets on manhole covers around Taipei City and working back into the decorative patterns with acrylic paints.

Collectively the artists, through their myriad of styles, diverse backgrounds, and unique approaches, reflect the breadth and complexity of paper art today, taking it beyond its traditional meaning.

Participating Artists Include: Jane Ingram Allen, Brian Dettmer, Karen Margolis, Mia Pearlman, and Crystal Wagner.

For more information please contact the gallery director at rokes@uncp.edu, or visit: http://www.uncp.edu/a.d.gallery/view/2011/pushingpaper.htm