

Generative Origami Design

Take a square sheet of paper. Identify the center and fold each of the corners as a valley to that point. The result is another square with one-half the area of the original sheet and some flaps. Valley fold the corners of the new square into the center. The result is yet another square with one-half the area of the previous square. Continue until the paper breaks, and you have followed a progression of origami design that was generated by a patterned sequence. This is an example of generative origami design.

Now imagine that there were multiple pieces displayed in a collection, each one stopping at a different step of the above progression. A viewer would be able to clearly see the design method, and the process becomes as much a part of the finished piece as the final component. In my recent collection, the feeling I get when I see the next step is as important as the feeling one receives from viewing the final form of the series. It leaves the audience to ponder how each step progresses to the next, and with a greater interest in seeing the what comes next in the series.