

## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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Breaking Rag: A Veteran, Family & Community Art Project  
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**Local Artist, Trish Brownlee, to launch a veteran & community art project in Fayetteville/Moore County & exhibit artwork with Cape Fear Regional Theater in March.**

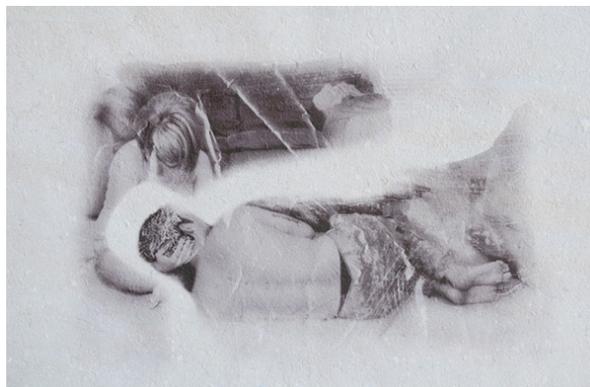
***New artwork by Trish Brownlee on exhibit with Cape Fear Regional Theatre's "Downrange: Voices from the Homefront."***

***Public workshops teaching veterans how to create handmade paper created from military uniforms to launch in March in Fayetteville, Southern Pines and surrounding communities in the "Breaking Rag Art Project".***

**Fayetteville, NC – Local artist, Trish Brownlee, will exhibit her new body of artwork with Cape Fear Regional Theatre's world premiere of the play *Downrange: Voices from the Homefront*. Trish Brownlee is a visual art consultant for *Downrange*. She will exhibit her new work throughout the duration of the play at Cape Fear Regional Theatre. Elements of the artwork will be evident in the play's set design. The art installation will run from Feb. 23 – March 20, 2016.**

The art installation, titled "*About Face*," focuses on military life from the perspective of "home." The subject of the artwork includes portraits of veterans and their families, and military and domestic objects. The art medium is handmade rag paper created from a combination of military uniforms worn by the veterans in the photographs, and baby clothes belonging to the artist. It is created through traditional papermaking processes. All the veterans photographed are living or have lived in the Fort Bragg community.

More information and images of the artwork can be viewed online: [www.trishbrownlee.com](http://www.trishbrownlee.com), under the "Works" link: About Face, Shadow Boxes, Quiet Paper and Family Portrait Series.



Trish Brownlee will host an exhibit opening reception and artist talk in the CFRT “glass box” on March 3 at 6:45pm, prior to the preview performance of *Downrange*. This talk is open to the public, but tickets to the play itself must still be purchased through [cfrt.org](http://cfrt.org).

In addition, Trish Brownlee will host a demonstration/workshop of the papermaking process used in the exhibited artwork on March 12<sup>th</sup> in the CFRT “glass box” from 10am-7pm. Military spouses and veterans will participate in the workshop, making paper from their own clothing/uniforms. Theatre patrons and the public are invited to try their hand at creating a sheet of handmade paper. *Downrange* will be performed at 2pm and 7pm that day. This workshop is open to the public, but again, tickets to the play itself must still be purchased through [cfrt.org](http://cfrt.org).

This papermaking workshop is the first of many as Trish Brownlee is proud and grateful to bring *Breaking Rag: A Veteran, Family & Community Art Project* to Fort Bragg and Cumberland, Hoke, Moore and surrounding communities in North Carolina.

**More about “Breaking Rag Art Project”:**

“Breaking rag” is a term in papermaking, referring to the physical process of breaking fibers into pulp, from which the paper is made. The *Breaking Rag Art Project* offers public demos and workshops to veterans, their families, and the community. These workshops specialize in creating paper and artwork from worn military uniforms. The goal is to assist veterans and their families in creating their own artwork to communicate their military experience. Through art, we are able to break through assumptions and stereotypes and find real connection, bridging the gap between the military and civilian communities.

Workshops will be offered to individuals, and through existing organizations.

A Kickstarter.com fundraiser to support *Breaking Rag* operations will launch March 1<sup>st</sup> – April 14<sup>th</sup>.

A second public demonstration of the *Breaking Rag Art Project* will take place on March 19<sup>th</sup> 2016, 1pm-3pm at Weymouth Wood’s “Party for the Pine” in Southern Pines, NC.

More about Breaking Rag can be found on Trish Brownlee’s website: [www.trishbrownlee.com](http://www.trishbrownlee.com) or through a direct link at [www.breakingrag.works](http://www.breakingrag.works).

A video explaining Breaking Rag is posted along with further information.

Members of the press and those who would like to learn more are welcome to contact Trish Brownlee directly. Images and an artist bio are provided below.



### **ARTIST BIO:**

Trish Brownlee is a mixed media artist, photographer, and educator. She is a published photographer and exhibiting fine artist. Her process explores traditional media such as papermaking, printmaking and painting integrated with photography, digital tools and technology. Trish is a 2015-2016 & 2012-2013 recipient of the Regional Artist Grant from the Arts Council of Cumberland County, and attended the 2015 Penland School of Crafts winter residency in papermaking. Trish earned her Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts from Pacific Northwest College of Art in 2015, and her Bachelors of Arts in Visual Arts from Fayetteville State University in 2012. Trish currently teaches visual arts programs at the Capitol Encore Academy, while serving as the school's arts integration facilitator and co-chair of the arts team. She is also a stringer for The Fayetteville Observer and independent photographer specializing in portraits, events and documentary work.

Trish served in the U.S. Air Force and Army as a photographer in active, reserve, contractor and civil service positions in various locations from 2004-2011. She is the spouse of an active duty Soldier. After studying the history of art in war and the uses of art in veteran treatment programs during her master's program, Trish is now using art as tool for veteran advocacy. Trish is currently launching the "Breaking Rag Art Project" in Fort Bragg and surrounding communities. *Breaking Rag* is a veteran, family and community art project, focusing on making handmade paper from military uniforms in an open forum, creating a safe space for storytelling and sharing of the veteran experience through the arts.