

Origami goes pop: folding papers with combination of traditional and contemporary



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Combining traditional folding paper with contemporary design, origami lovers can find modern pleasure in this ancient art.

Origami, a traditional Japanese art of making decorations by folding sheets of paper into different shapes, is re-created by Studio Cochae, a Japanese origami graphics unit founded in 2003.

Different from traditional origami, the Cochae origami series consist of paper with colourful pop art designs. By folding along lines printed on the back, players can turn the papers into three-dimensional objects which match the graphic design. The final product looks modern, but it does not overshadow the traditional elements of origami.

For example in the Collage series, old magazine papers are used for the graphic design of the folding papers, which can be folded into shapes of a bird, a rabbit, an ogre, a kingfisher and even a naked woman.

Yiu Yat-hung, 53, said the origami sets are creative. "It's different from traditional origami in the sense that the graphic design determines how the final product looks," he commented, "but you still have to follow the steps in order to complete the folding process, just as traditional folding does."

In traditional origami, you can fold as many different things as you like from a single piece of paper. But



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The finished product of the Collage series.

most Cochae collections only allow players to fold a fixed style in one collection. "It is a kind of restriction, but also the most creative part of Cochae origami," explained Ron Lam, a retailer of Cochae origami series.

To avoid losing the diversity which traditional origami possesses, Studio Cochae came up with the idea of the Funny Face collection, as it allows players to create numerous different faces depending on how they fold the papers.

Cochae origami consists of five collections, including *Orimato*, Traditional, Funny Face, Collage and *Oreorenai* – meaning "I cannot fold" in Japanese.

With price ranges from HK\$30 to HK\$170, the origami sets are available at Think Silly Store, the exclusive retailer of the series, at Shop 8, Block B, 18 Ka Yip Street, Chai Wan. For details, call Think Silly Store at 2881 8002 or visit Cochae's website <http://cochae.com/>. Grace Yiu

1-5: The steps of folding a bird origami of the Collage series.



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Some of the final products of the Funny Face series (left) and *Orimato* series (right).