

## **William Hopkins**

### **Biography**

William J. Hopkins was raised in California where he finished high school and started a family. He has been a mechanic, laborer, heavy equipment operator, and cabinet maker. The artist calls the high deserts of California home, where his love of art and more specifically the art of the American and European car culture were born. The movement in the bodylines and the sound of a finely tuned V-8 is like Beethoven.

His father and mother were big influences on his love of cars. He did not even know that the simple act of driving to the store in a 1964 Chevelle Malibu SS was like meditation to him, and the joy he got from prepping cars for paint with his dad.

The artist is now influenced by the volunteers from the Penland School of Craft: Rachel, Sarah Rose, and Daniel whom keep the artist on track and encourage him to try new things. The artist loves the challenge of trying to engineer mechanical things out of paper, like working suspension and steering.

The artist was happy to find his love for art again when he was incarcerated and started drawing to send his kids stuff. Later, he was challenged by a friend to build a 'rat rod' out of paper and the adventure continues on.

### ***Autogami***

Websters says origami is 'the Japanese art or process of folding squares of paper into representational shapes.'

The artist says Autogami is 'the art or process of folding squares of paper into automotive representations.'

The artist has been making Autogami for two years and has been in love with the car culture of both North America and Europe for his entire life. He works in paper and has been known to use baby powder or cornstarch as body filler and recently modeling clay.

He designs all of his models from the ground up and tries to get the scale as close as possible to the real cars he so loves. The artist has been participating in an art class for almost two years and through the encouragement of friends like Bird and Ted, his family as well as the volunteers from Penland School of Craft, he has taken up painting including acrylic and acrylic pouring.

The artist hopes to combine his skills to design his own cars. He has had pieces in the *Inside Out: Sketches from Inside* and *Inside Out: Out of this World* shows at the Fox and Fig in Spruce Pine, NC.

The artist hopes his art invokes a sense of awe and nostalgia in his viewers and good memories for those who love cars and the culture as much as he does.