Manicured
Meredith Cook
(installation at UWT campus, paper, bamboo, 3’ x 6’ x 3’)

Artist Statement: The purpose of this project was to integrate elements of ourselves into the landscape. The choice of subject and design was based on the formal relationships of shape, repetition and materials. The shape of the narrow sprouts of grass is similar to the slender shape of fingers extending out from the palm. There is repetition with having five fingers, repeated twice to produce two hands. Within the space there are multiple grass mounds and multiple blades of grass within that mound. I have created 10 pairs of hands to mimic the same sort of repetition, equaling 20 hands, 100 fingers, and 100 blades of grass. Repetition was also integrated with the construction of the project; making so many hands became an assembly process for each blade of grass to be cut, folded and adhered to the fingers. I also chose paper and bamboo, fiber materials similar to grass, to be my construction materials. Another correlation between the grass and I is regarding the artificial arrangement of the grass mounds. The evenly spaced clumps are not naturally occurring; they are part of a sculpted landscape built by human hands.