



Summer 2019 Urban Art Project
June 5th—September 5th
Reception July 8th, 2019 from 5 to 7 PM

Urban Art Project Artist Statements

To best take advantage of the artist statement packet begin viewing the exhibit at the window located next to the parking garage entrance on the east side of the building facing 4th Street and move towards 1st Avenue South ending at the last window located next to the south entrance near 3rd Street.

Our continual thanks to the Great Falls Business Improvement District, the City of Great Falls Parking Program, Downtown Great Falls Association, the Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, Kelly Signs & Designs, and all of the individuals, and local businesses that support the UAP through their contributions and patronage.



Window #1

Alma Winberry, *Slice of Life*

Sponsored by Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art & Great Falls Art Patrons

When one treasure piece gets ruined, it makes room for another more dynamic one to come into its place. My garage sale find from a rejected Pier One piece with twine circles that got ditched into my yard so a buddy could borrow my car as it was put out in the rain, got turned into a rock holder for this slice of life.

This piece is actually a drawing with rocks, dirt and stone collections of my travels around Montana and Great Falls in a canoe, trekking the hills, and digging in the dirt throughout our great state.

Test your talents at finding the selenite that came from the walls of Canyon Ferry on this piece to the antler that once adorned the deer that roamed our hills. The faux crystals and game pieces of a Japanese board game also can be found among the treasures that are sold at the local Michaels store. Recycling materials from garage sales helps to create the image of living on our earth and the wonders of what lives down below our feet as we walk about everyday. Think of the underground pools as the strength you can access from within to live your life as you grow in your life's cycle in this world. May all the wonders of our world be found in your heart of hearts.



Window #2

Sense-Ability School, *Merging Realities*

Sponsored by Electric City Coffee

"In viewing the world through a different window" motto was applied to creating this art with fantasy pieces of leaves donated by Rachel Kaiser who created them while working with the local Children's Museum, we added them to real tree branches and a "hairy" bark creature donated by the Good Wood Guys for the Bark for Art contest at the Four West Art League. The result is a tree that can be mesmerizing to the look when combined with lights and colorful movement. Trees represent the sustenance of life and this tree shows the diverse combinations of young, creative minds willing to create art that speaks and be of community service by decorating the city of Great Falls.

We all live in combinations of understanding of what we create and what we find is real. Making art that speaks of our choices in design and style helps us grow exponentially in a world that attempts to understand the thoughts and feelings of the autistic child. The Sense-Ability School strives to create an atmosphere where students can grow and understand the complexities of life with self expression in this world responsibly. <https://www.senseabilityinc.org/>



Window #3

Four West Art League, *Bark for Art*

Sponsored by Owen & Gayle Robinson

In planning for First Friday Art Walk at the Columbus Center artists collaborated and came up with an idea of sponsoring a community sculpture contest utilizing the bark from local cottonwood trees, or others of choice, as they were harvested from the land at Great Falls High School in preparation for the new construction.

The men at the Good Wood Guys were slicing and dicing the trees and our creative minds wanted to see what we could come up with to create all kinds of wood pieces for a Bark For Art foray.

Many unique pieces were assembled, tastes were expanded and the inner creative voice was expanded to speak of the artistic culture of Great Falls people. Lots of interest was shown, many attendees found our project interesting, and many more developments could have been made from the stimulation of our association and project development. Amanda Fudge's group creation won in the family division with their "Mother Earth and Her Offspring" generating an entire lineup of beauties created. The Sense-Ability School won first place in the school division. Mark Amundson did the most creative, Meg Magnuson won the esoteric division, and Alma Winberry's wood carving manifestation from the Creative Center of Four West was a choice for some. Here are a few of the best from the show. We can make art out of local recycling projects.



Window #4

Arts Association of Montana, *Summer in the City*

Sponsored by Chuck & Jerry Jennings

We decided to let our artists' freedom use the song Summer in the City by the Lovin' Spoonful to create images inspired by the exciting music and lyrics. AAM artists are displaying paintings that fit in from either their existing catalogue of art or new ideas painted on donated box tops. This song was chosen as our theme due to the obvious seasonal nature of it, as well the cards spirit it also represents. We live in a beautiful city that comes even more alive in the summer. www.artsassociationofmontana.org



Window #5

Arts Association of Montana, *Surfin' Safari*

Sponsored by Downtown Chicks

We have decided to give our artists freedom to create images inspired by this great Beach Boys song. We are displaying art from their existing catalogue as well as new art made on donated box tops. This song was chosen due to the obvious spirit of summer that beaches represent. The upbeat nature of this song allowed our artists to either connect with memories of past vacations or residences along the coasts, or to fabricate spectacular ideas of what it is like to sit with your feet in the sand and sun on your face.

www.artsassociationofmontana.org

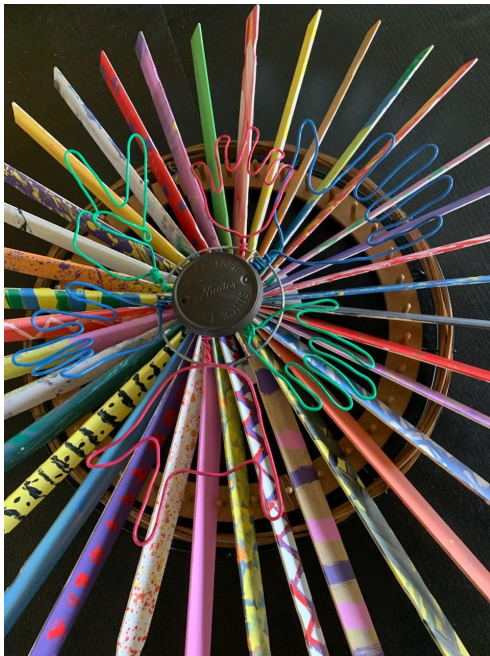


Window #6

Jesse Buff, *Dressing Up*

Sponsored by Arts in the Schools are Important for Business

I am a self-taught artist. My art is just how I see things. Sometimes it takes some doing to get things from my mind into my art, trying to find the stuff to make it come alive. I do not limit myself to any one type of art. I like to try new things. I like to have fun with the creation of my projects. This work focuses on the art of the engine. As you build an engine, it is not only performance that you focus on. It's also the looks, how you dress your engine, that makes a difference.



Window #7

Cynthia Weitzel with Montana Deaf Community and Students, *Sign Language, Bloom Can!*

Sponsored by City of Great Falls Parking Program

American Sign Language (ASL) is a visual, spacial, three-dimensional language, so it was decided early in the project to explore more three-dimensional visual language through found object sculpture. The majority of materials used are from donations and area thrift stores or merchants reflecting local culture and heritage. For example, the use of electrical wire throughout the installation is a nod to the "Electric City." The round shapes, consisting of bright colors with dark centers, are an abstract reference to both "eyes" and flowers in bloom. Painted steel ASL hand-shapes were also utilized. Lastly, the bright sun, in the far upper right corner, vitally important while blooming and communicating. ASL is our sunshine.

Youth and community volunteers were involved in every step of the process, from concept building to planning to execution. Throughout this experience, students and community had the benefit of exploring the genre of De'VIA (Deaf View Image Art.)

Project Support: "Sign Language, Bloom Can!" grew out of collaboration between visiting Deaf artist from Minnesota, Cynthia Weitzel, students from Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB), other area deaf and hard of hearing youth and their siblings, as well as members of Great Falls Deaf Community. An Urban Arts Project made possible by MSDB Foundation and newly formed nonprofit organization C.A.N. (Conservatory ASL Northwest).

Cynthia Weitzel, Visual Artist
Deaf Artist Residency Prog Coordinator
Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies
163 Tower View Drive (Grain Loft Studio)
Red Wing, Minnesota 55066

Ph: 651.301.7225; Text: 651.301.5080
www.facebook.com/CynthiaWeitzelVisualArtist
www.facebook.com/DeafArtistsResidencyProgram
www.andersoncenter.org



Window #8

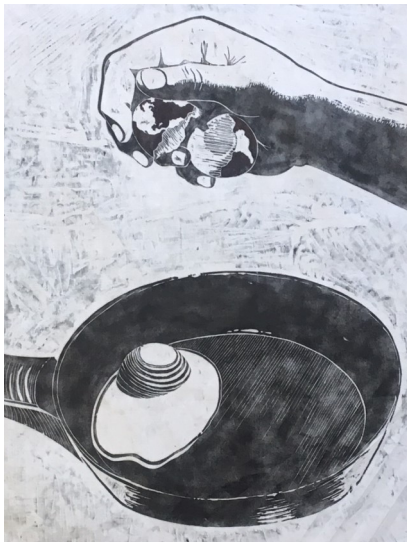
Ashly Staples, *Life, Death, Renewal*

Sponsored by Downtown Great Falls Association (DGFA)

Cherry blossom trees are the most beautiful tree in the world in my mind. Every time I see them they provide a sense of peace, love and joy. They make me think of all of the wonderful memories past, and the new ones that I am making now, to last a lifetime.

This piece is looking into flowers, which in Japan is called Hanami. It means flower watching and I love looking into the cherry blossom trees and thinking to myself what a wonderful life it is.

With this installation I want to let you know that anything in your life is possible. Do not give up your dreams and try something different. My art teacher, Peggy, told me this when I started to paint. She kept pushing me to do my best and bring out my creative side, which you can too. Do not be afraid to pick up a pencil, paint brush, or finger paint! Cherry blossom trees have reminded me there is a lot to be thankful for and to make memories. Even if that means changing yourself, and that is why my piece is called *Life, Death, and Renewal*. I am here, but changed, and renewed myself. When you are reading this remember to always smile when you are flower watching. <https://ashlystaples.wixsite.com/thisismystorydesigns>



Window #9

Meghan Magnuson, *Can't Have Your Life and Eat It Too*

Sponsored by Great Falls Business Improvement District (GFBID)

If we were cooking eggs and bacon and started a grease fire, the appropriate course of action would not be to go downstairs, plunk ourselves into our Lazyboy, turn on the tv, and pretend nothing was wrong. However, this seems to be exactly what we are doing.

Saving our planet is not a political issue, it is the only issue. If we do not do something NOW to stop the destruction we are causing, then nothing else will matter... jobs won't matter, freedom of speech won't matter, healthcare, gender equality, civil liberties, and human rights won't matter. Money and politics won't matter... and there is no wall that can protect us from the consequences of our inaction.

The last time atmospheric CO2 levels were this high was 3 million years ago. The beginnings of the affects of our insatiable consumption of fossil fuels are already being felt around the world as draught and severe weather patterns increase. Our planet is heating up, our polar ice caps are melting, 87% of our oceans are now dying due to acidification. We are destroying the homeostasis of our global ecosystem and subsequently all life on our planet.

But there are solutions, and so there is hope, but we do not have the luxury of time. If we wait for the flames to reach the arm of our recliner to call the fire department, it will be too late. We need to act now to combine and concentrate our resources and efforts. If we want our children to have a future then we the people of this planet must unite and demand that our governments take action to implement the use of clean renewable resources..... or the cost will be something far more precious than money. It is time we give back the love which our beautiful little blue planet has given so abundantly and freely to us.

What we do to our Earth, we do to ourselves.



Window #10

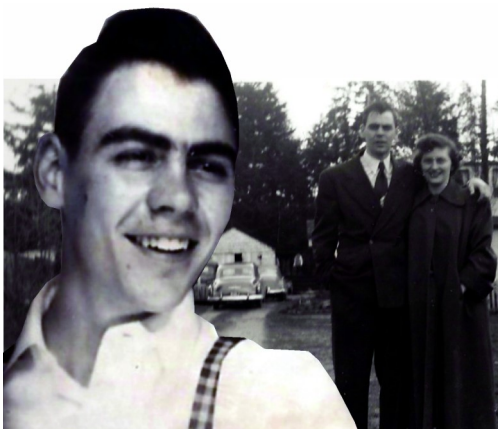
Ellie Fudge, Emma White, & Alma Winberry, *Life of Rock People*

Sponsored by Jean Price Memorial Fund, In Loving Memory of Jean Price, founder of the Urban Art Project

One day when Ellie Fudge, seven years old, hopped into my car to head out to volunteer at the Sense-Ability School she said to me, "I want to do an Urban Art Project Window with you!" I said, I would have to look into it, but what topic would you like to do? Straight out she said last October, "I would like to do 'Life of Rock People!'" And so it was. After a conversation with Jean Price, former Urban Art Project Director, we had lift-off and plans were set into motion to make it happen.

In December we created a class at the Creative Center of Four West where Meg Magnuson would teach us how to create people from plaster. Instead Ellie Fudge and I worked with spray insulation foam, rocks and wood from my studio. We made Mr. Rock in pieces, with body and limbs being separate. Then in the springtime, after hibernating, more embellishments were made for those critters who live in the deep, dark recesses in the woods.

The house came into being and you can venture into the scenes of his life in his forestry home with kids and all. Rock People are just cool!! Emma White was also an active contributor.



Window #11

Raymond M. Kelly, *A Life Well Lived, John R. Kelly*

Sponsored by Kelly's Signs & Designs

This piece is dedicated to my father... who recently passed away.

Sometimes a hero's life begins at the end of the book.



If you have any questions about the Urban Art Project please contact the director, Cortni Harant, at cortni_harant@gfps.k12.mt.us or call her at 406-260-6532.

To sponsor a window or make a tax deductible donation please make your checks payable to Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, noting "Urban Art Project" in the memo line. If you wish to sponsor a window please note WINDOW SPONSOR in the memo line also. Window sponsorships range from one exhibition run at \$325 to \$625 for one year (three) of exhibitions. Donations of any denomination are always appreciated and will be noted as "art patrons" on publications.

Mail or deliver your donations to: **Great Falls Urban Art Project**
C/O Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art
1400 First Avenue North
Great Falls, MT 59401

The Urban Art Project operates under the 501-c3 of the Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art through a memorandum of understanding established in 2007. The UAP is currently seeking artists for the 2020 exhibition season.