



**Autumn 2020 Urban Art Project**  
**October 15th—January 5th**  
**Artist Interviews Available Online Soon**

## Urban Art Project Autumn 2020 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, Kelly Signs & Designs, and all of the individuals, and local businesses that support the UAP through their contributions and patronage.*



A digital version of this packet and more can be found on our website at <https://greatfallsurbanart.weebly.com/>.

#gfurbanartproject



The Urban Art Project is happy to announce its new partnership with the GF Business Improvement District, a local 501c3 that serves to keep downtown Great Falls vibrant. They have been a support of the UAP since its inception and served as its fiscal agent from 2005-2007. In 2007 the UAP, under Jean Price's request, moved the UAP under the Paris Gibson Square Museum of Arts 501c3. We thank PGS for their thirteen years of support. The UAP thanks The Square for all of their support over the years and looks forward to support as we serve similar missions, to provide opportunity to artist to exhibit and to share the visual arts with the community at large.



## Window #1

Sponsored by Jean Price Memorial Fund & Art Patrons

## UAP TAKE OVER by MAEA

Mid-October each year teachers gather to share and learn from each other during the teacher convention days. This year our convention is unique in that we are gathering virtually, but that did not stop nine art teachers from all over the state from taking over the UAP. The take over was planned pre-pandemic, but artist/teachers stood by and went to solution. Works came from every area of Montana from Frazer to Missoula and Turner to Bozeman. Some artists drove to Great Falls in advance of the conference to install their works while others planned shippable installations. Please see our artist statement page for more information.



## Window #2

Sponsored by Bill & Carol Bronson

Hope and Love

by Connie Barnhart

There are incredible stresses on all of us in these chaotic times. The challenges of the covid 19 pandemic, political divisiveness, and economic hardships are making everyday life a struggle for everyone. The artwork acts as a reminder to love one another and ourselves and to keep hope alive for the future. I asked my students to add contributions to the "Love" side of the artwork. It was encouraging to see that through all the trials of remote learning, some still love their siblings! Montana is a "next year" state and with "Love" and "Hope", our state and country will have brighter future.

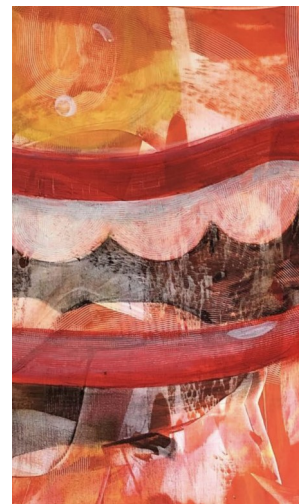
## Window #3

Sponsored by Owen & Gayle Robinson

## Happy All The Time by Ned Bardsley

We are all convinced from a young age that we will only be accepted when we are happy. They command us to smile, tell us to cheer up, but what about anger, or frustration, or the countless other emotions neglected in this toxic pursuit for constant joy?

Today we pay our homage to the emotion we refer to as happiness, and respectfully divert our attention to validating whatever we feel, and strive to never be "happy all the time".



Great Falls Urban Art Project thanks **Kelly Signs and Designs** for their ongoing support. Ray Kelly graciously provides all signage to the UAP exhibits as an in kind donation each exhibition.

**Thank you, Kelly Signs and Design!**





If you have any questions about the Urban Art Project please contact the director, Cortni Harant, at [cortni\\_harant@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:cortni_harant@gfps.k12.mt.us) or call her at 406-260-6532. A digital version of this packet and more can be found on our website. <https://greatfallsurbanart.weebly.com/> #gurbanartproject

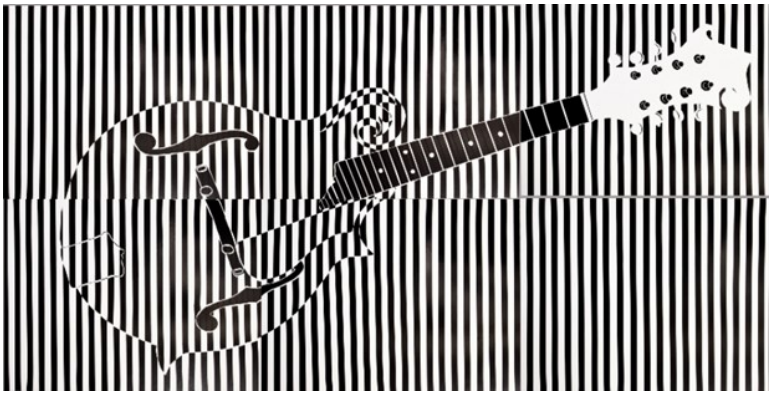
To sponsor a window or make a tax deductible donation please make your checks payable to the Urban Art Project. If you wish to sponsor a window please note WINDOW SPONSOR in the memo line and complete the sponsorship form. Window sponsorships range from one exhibition run at \$325 to \$650 for one year (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 Cortni Harant, Director  
1506 Central Avenue  
Great Falls, MT 59401



The Urban Art Project operates under the 501-c3 of the GF Business Improvement District. The UAP is currently seeking artists for the 2021 exhibition season.



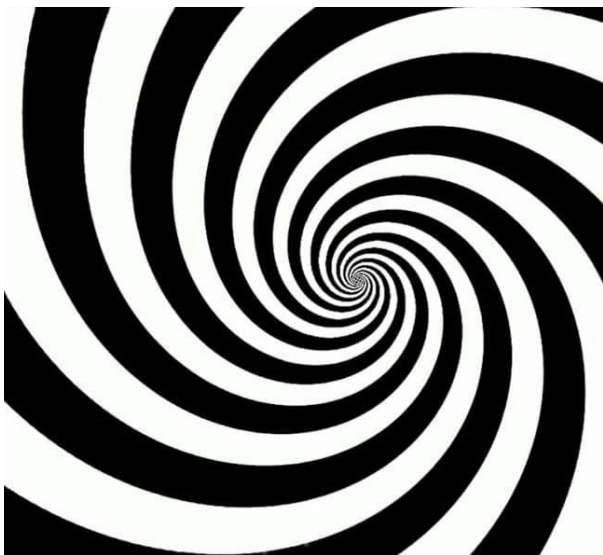
#### Window #4

*Sponsored by TBA*

#### Playing in Time by Victor Daniels

Country and bluegrass songwriter Hazel Dickens wrote a song titled "It's hard to tell the singer from the song". It's also hard to tell a musician from their music or an artist from their art. In *Playing in Time* I set out to combine two of my passions, music and visual art into one piece

that highlights the art deco curves of the F-Style mandolin against the clockwork precision of the musical time and rhythm. The entire piece is made using black electrical tape against a light background to create a tension between positive and negative space and echo the space and time between mandolin strings and sound as it carries through the air.



#### Window #5

*Sponsored by City Motor Company*

#### Spinning by Cortni Harant

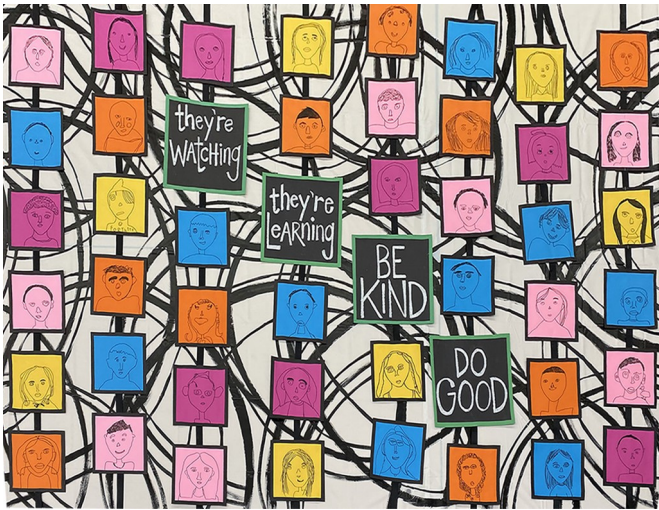
As educators we are being asked to carry in immense load during these unprecedented times. We are teaching face to face facing additional exposure; attempting to meet the needs of the revolving door of student quarantined on any given day; and teach fully online to students who don't feel safe at school all at the same time. That does not even address the added anxiety of exposure and possible detriment to ourselves or our families. At times I feel like the plates are about to drop. I worry about not having the resource of time to address the needs of students in all the various platforms.

## Window #6

Sponsored by Great Falls Public Schools

### *The Conversation* by Tess Jacobs

This installation asks the viewer to contemplate and question how we are influenced by social media? How has it changed our conversations and influenced our opinions concerning current events? Social media was originally a means of connecting with friends or finding groups we shared common interests with, but studies show it has become a leading source of news for many people. Studies also show evidence people are more comfortable communicating through social media than face to face. We tend to be more honest and comfortable responding to a Twitter or Facebook post than we are face to face. The "Conversation" asks the viewer to contemplate how we are individually influenced by the social media we consume.



## Window #7

Sponsored by City of Great Falls Parking Program

### *Teach Them Well* by Monica Thompson

This combination of children's self portraits, takes second grader's original drawings transferred onto colored paper and hung in a linear mobile format. The painted background is meant to provide a complementing and contrasting backdrop, the choice of black and white was both aesthetic and symbolic. In an election year, and heightened political climate, this work is meant to remind us all of our responsibilities to the youth of America; lead by example, and take to heart the gravity of how you treat others. Children are watching and learning. Be kind, and do good.

Monica Thompson's other (and very different!) work can be found at <http://thimbleanddot.squarespace.com/>



## Window #8

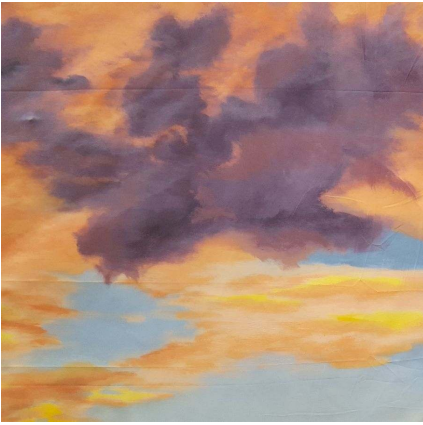
Sponsored by Downtown Great Falls Association (DGFA)

### *UAP Take Over* by MAEA



A digital version of this packet and more can be found on our website.  
<https://greatfallsurbanart.weebly.com/>

#gfurbanartproject



### **Window # 9**

Sponsored by GF Business Improvement District

#### *Hope and Home* by April Fox

As we all know, the times we live in are uncertain and riddled with anxiety. Last spring, I tasked my students and invited community members to create a piece of artwork that symbolizes our community and the hope we have for better times. The clay pieces you see here are the results, created by students and adults ranging in age from 6 to 41. I chose to create the background piece because Montana's big sky is the part of where I live that I adore the most. Since moving to rural Montana, the vast and captivating sky has kept me grounded, so to speak. It's beauty is a constant that always causes me to pause and take a moment to soak it all in. The truly big sky reminds me that beauty is everywhere, even in the worst of times, if only you look for it.

stant that always causes me to pause and take a moment to soak it all in. The truly big sky reminds me that beauty is everywhere, even in the worst of times, if only you look for it.



### **Window #10**

Sponsored by Harant Heating, Cooling & Remodeling

#### *8 Americans* by Frank Jacques

There is something about the clouds that have been following us this year and something about how we adapt and something about fire being both an instrument of destruction and creativity and something about where we find inspiration and who we look to for guidance when we need guidance in "8 Americans". I have been working on some pots since last March that deal with what it is to be an American in 2020. The pots were too tiny for the UAP space so I made these bigger drawings that still involve ceramic notions.

The 7 drawings are done on pieces of an old wedding table canvas using charcoal from September's Bridger fire (that I watched from my deck), dried red stoneware from the deposit at the Bridger Pinch and dried Cone 6 Porcelain from Archie Bray.



### **Window #11**

Sponsored by Kelly Signs & Designs

#### *Stand Up for MMIWG* by Teresa Heil & Frazer School

Frazer School's Art Department is raising awareness of the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) movement through art activism. Frazer School is located on Fort Peck Indian Reservation in northeast Montana and students are primarily enrolled members of the Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes. We reflected on what our district has accomplished as highlighted in the *Bearcub Strong* video, and M.L. Smoker's poem, '*Book of the MMI Chapter 1*', to honor MMIWG. Frazer students gathered ideas through Google Meets while distance learning. Then students worked collaboratively in-person to create the 'Stand up for MMIWG' mural, while acknowledging the history of Indigenous rights. With the support of our families, friends, and now the Urban Art Project community, we continue to fight back against the misogynistic actions against Indigenous women.

*Bearcub Strong* Video (@8:35 Honor Others)

Virtual Poetry Tour with MT Poets Laureate (@12:20 M.L. Smoker)

<https://youtu.be/a1j99NaVzEw>

<https://youtu.be/c-EixXhDiyU>



## URBAN ART PROJECT Sponsorship/Donation Form

Tax Deductible Donation Provided by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your sponsorship level:

- ◇ \$650 or more - Golden Brush
- ◇ \$325 or more - Silver Brush
- ◇ Under \$325 - Bronze Brush – unlimited
- ◇ Any Amount - Jean Price Memorial Fund

Amount received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method: \_\_\_\_\_

Gold and Silver Brush Levels - Text to appear on the window: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check Your Preferred Method of UAP Notifications:

- ◇ Text
- ◇ Email
- ◇ Postal Service



Mail or deliver your donations to:  
**Great Falls Urban Art Project**  
C/O Cortni Harant  
1506 Central Avenue  
Great Falls, MT 59401

Thank you for your support! Public Art is the heart of any great community and your financial support and/or gifts in kind make this unique opportunity possible. In the Americans for the Arts study titled “Why Public Art Matters (2018)” they state:

*Art in public spaces plays a distinguishing role in our country’s history and culture. It reflects and reveals our society, enhances meaning in our civic spaces, and adds uniqueness to our communities. Public art humanizes the built environment. It provides an intersection between past, present, and future between disciplines and ideas. Public art matters because our communities gain cultural, social, and economic value through public art.*

The full document explores how public art impacts five community values: Economic Growth and Sustainability, Attachment and Cultural Identity, Artists as Contributors, Social Cohesion and Cultural Understanding, and Public Health and Belonging. Each section includes a summary, reasoning statement, supporting data, and examples. Please feel free to access the document to see the full findings of the research.



A digital version of this packet and more can be found on our website at <https://greatfallsurbanart.weebly.com/>.

#gforurbanartproject