



Winter 2022 Urban Art Project  
February 5th—May 5th

## Urban Art Project Winter 2022 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



## Street Side Reception

315 1st Ave. South, Great Falls, MT

February 17th, 2022 from 5:00 - 6:00 PM

## Meet the Artists!

Social Gathering After @ the KellerGeist

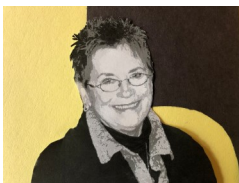


Image courtesy of  
Terry Thall, artist

Please support the Jean Price Memorial  
Fund with a monetary donation today.

Donations can be sent to the GF BID @ 318 Central Avenue, GF, MT 59401, Attn: UAP



### **Window #1**

*Sponsored by Jean Price Memorial Fund & Art Patrons*

## ***Putting the Pieces Together*** **By Chief Joe Elementary 3rd Graders**

When we play our individual part in the whole of society, we become something much greater than ourselves. With the use of tiles, rocks, broken dishes, globbies, shells and beads to create their own puzzle piece, Ms. Lexa Loch's 3<sup>rd</sup> graders from Chief Joseph Elementary School in Great Falls made a much larger artist expression when they put together their puzzle pieces into a whole 4 x 8 panel of individual designs while on their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade tour at the Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art November 2021. It is with the support and assistance of Ellie Weber, Vicki Albro, and a parent volunteer that this project

designed and implemented by Alma Winberry, that you can enjoy youth art in our town. Thanks to all involved; we are always in the process of putting together our puzzle pieces of life. How symbolic.



### **Window #2**

*Sponsored by Bill & Carol Bronson*

## ***Wish We Were Here*** **by Jean Fleming-Mazur**

Baby it's cold out there! Let's dream of sand, sea, sun and palm trees...

Be mesmerized by gentle waves that are 50 shades of blue, wiggle your toes in the sand, collect seashells and bask in the warmth of the tropical sun.



### **Window #3**

*Sponsored by Owen & Gayle Robinson*

## ***Under the Sea, You and Me*** **by Jean Fleming-Mazur**

If you've snorkeled, dived or just watched a video you know the calm beneath the ocean. As you look about your breath slows, your body relaxes and as you swim lazily, you'll discovered the wonders under the seas. Watch a green sea turtle pass you, spy a Picaso Triggerfish coming around red coral and tube coral sprouting up from the ocean floor.

We say we live in God's country but, really, it's God's world. While being in the mountains, looking up into the Big Sky or on a tropical beach, let's remember to take care of it as the world cares for us.



A digital version of this packet and more can be found on our website.

<https://greatfallsurbanart.weebly.com/>

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To learn more about how you can support the UAP, or get involved in an installation, please call Cortni Harant at 406-260-6532 or email her at [cortni\\_harant@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:cortni_harant@gfps.k12.mt.us).



### **Window #4**

*Sponsored by Neighbor Works*

## ***Koi Ponds of Northern Japan: A Study of Motion*** by Sharon Graham Smith

Sharon Graham Smith, a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, had the pleasure of moving to Great Falls, Montana with her husband 21 years ago. She fell in love with the Community and beauty of Great Falls.

After a whirlwind tour of the world, thanks to her husband's military career, she and her family came back to call Great Falls their home.

These koi paintings were inspired by the ethereal koi ponds of Northern Japan. Sharon's most recent home was in Misawa, Japan where she was surrounded by sprawling coastlines, windblown waves of the Sea of Japan, expertly manicured gardens and picturesque Koi ponds.

She uses a combination of movement and contrast in her acrylic paintings. To achieve this effect, the paint is applied layer after layer using a metal scraper. Various colors are worked into the wet paint with quick motions and purposeful placement. Once dry, a self-leveling acrylic clear coat is applied to simulate the surface of water.

"My hope is to bring some beautiful contrasting colors along with the graceful movement of the koi from Japan to this cold and frozen winter season in Montana."



### **Window #5**

*Sponsored by Gary & Nancy Zadick*

## ***Pieces of the Prairie*** by April Fox

I have a love for what others may consider junk. I am fascinated by the patina that can be achieved by time and weather. I pocket the bits of old glass bottles, broken china, and rusted out machinery, wondering how and why they were discarded or lost. Nearly all of these items have been found "on the prairie" in some form or another; my grandmother's attic, the land on our family homestead, abandoned lots, and even while tilling up my garden. The treasures have become part of the background or showcased front and center, but all lend their stories.



### **Window #6**

*Sponsored by TBA*

## ***HOME*** by Autumn Baack Elliot

I am a third-generation Baack farmer, and my love for farming runs deep. Growing up as a farmer's daughter has instilled in me a passion for the land and working together as a family. This series titled HOME represents my love for the land, family, and beauty of farming in Montana.

The batik is my favorite medium and the best outcome out of the three mediums, photography, chalk, and batik. I chose to create these works as batiks because I find the process exciting, and the vivid colors from the batik dye are breathtaking. The imagery started as photos that I took during my Master's photography class, and then I drew the images using chalk in my Master's drawing class.



***GF Business Improvement District***

***GF Urban Art Project Fiscal Agent***

***318 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59401***



## Window #7

Sponsored by City of Great Falls Parking Program

### Bag It! by Betsy Rogstad

**Bag It** is a statement about our crisis of plastic. My original idea came from cleaning out my large kitchen drawer dedicated to accumulated plastic bags. Unfortunately, I clean it out more than I should have to. I dutifully keep my reusable grocery bags in my car ready to use. Sixty percent of the time I get to the store checkout, slap my forehead and exclaim that I forgot my reusable bags AGAIN! When pondering what I should do for my Urban Art Window I knew I wanted to work with something I had a lot of. The lightbulb went on as I was cleaning out my plastic bag drawer!

Not so fun facts:

- ⇒ Plastic grocery bags were introduced at grocery stores in 1977, what did we do before then?
- ⇒ Plastic bags can take between 20 and 1,000 years to break down.
- ⇒ Americans use 100 billion plastic shopping bags per year but only about 1 percent get recycled.
- ⇒ More than 100,000 marine animal deaths are caused each year when they mistake plastic shopping bags for food.



## Window #8

Sponsored by Downtown Great Falls Association (DGFA)

### Diner of Remembrance by Power HS Art

At the beginning of the school year we had Jill Walker, an aid at our school, bring us a creative idea to review the elements of design. She showed us how to decorate a set of dishes that uniquely represented ourselves and highlighted certain elements like color, line, or pattern. As our projects exploded into colorful life, we discussed a question, "If I could have just one more meal with someone who has passed, who would that be?" We would set the table with our wild dishes, chat, and not take a moment for granted - soak up some wisdom. Some have lost family members too soon, have wondered about ancestors we never could meet, or have felt the loss of influential celebrities who left our world tragically. And certainly, Covid has made us ponder mortality before we want to. A simple review project reminded us to live life aware and grateful.



## Window # 9

Sponsored by GF Business Improvement District

### Disposable, you say? by Nancy Petley

Nancy Petley is a long-time Great Falls resident with a 29 year history of Graphic Arts. Her hobbies include laser cutting and engraving. Nancy has spent the past 15 years creating and building small scale structures and models in 4 scales 1:12, 1:24, 1:48 and 1:144<sup>th</sup>. Her creations have been sold world wide, with work featured in six international magazines. This current installation is the result of 27 years of collecting, creating, and mixing artistic mediums to form a picture-dialogue of the ebbs and flows of life.



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### Window #10

Sponsored by Harant Heating, Cooling & Remodeling

### Montana Textures by Amber Litzinger

Aristotle said "Art takes nature as its model." and living in Montana seems to exaggerate that statement. We are so lucky to call this state home, and as I drive through out land, take walks through our city, or simply watch the sunrise through my front window, I can't help but see the possibility to bring this gorgeous landscape into art, and into our

homes. I am constantly looking for ways to adapt art to the functionality of our everyday lives while creating welcoming atmospheres where people want to connect. Using the inspiration of the Big Sky state for colors and backdrops, paired with textiles and materials found easily and locally, I wanted to show how our Montana landscape can be brought into our homes.



### Window #11

Sponsored by Kelly Signs & Designs

### Stick It by Mary Warner

I trimmed my trees this summer. I had so many branches that had to be disposed of. It occurred to me that these limbs, sticks, and branches would make a lovely sculpture. Arranging these branches

has created a pattern, a systematic composition. A perfect idea for an installation.

Thank you to all of our business sponsors!



And private sponsors:  
Owen & Gayle Robinson,  
Bill & Carol Bronson,  
Gary & Nancy Zadick  
And YOU!

Donate today!

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To learn more about the GF Urban Art Project contact Cortni Harant, UAP Director, at 406-260-6532.



## 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 (three shows)
  - ◇ \$325 or more - Silver Brush (one show)
  - ◇ Under \$325 - Bronze Brush – unlimited
  - ◇ Any Amount - Jean Price Memorial Fund
- The Urban Art Project operates under Great Falls Business Improvement District (BID). The BID is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 and therefore your donation may be tax deductible. Our federal tax id as a 501c3 nonprofit is 81-0460024.

Amount received: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Method: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/legislation-policy/naappd/why-public-art-matters-2018>



### **Make Checks Payable to:**

GF Business Improvement District,  
or GF BID

**Memo Line:** UAP Sponsorship

### **Mail or deliver your donations to:**

Great Falls Urban Art Project, C/O  
GF BID, 318 Central Avenue, Great  
Falls, MT 59401



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