

Urban Art Project



Summer 2023 Urban Art Project
June 5th—September 5th

Urban Art Project Summer 2023 Artist Statements

To best take advantage of the artist statement packet begin viewing the exhibit at the installation space 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 installation space 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/>.

#gurbanartproject

Street Side Reception

315 1st Ave. South, Great Falls, MT

June 22nd, 2023
from 5:00 - 6:00 PM

Meet the Artists!



Please support the
Jean Price Memorial Fund

Donate today!

Image courtesy of Terry Thall, artist

Donations can be sent to: Urban Art Project, 1506 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59401

Individual Installation Sponsors Include:

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

Fully sponsor an artist for a \$325 donation or donate any amount to the Jean Price Memorial Fund to help sustain the UAP.

Social Gathering After @ the KellerGeist from 6:00-7:00 PM



Installation Space #1

Sponsored by Jean Price Memorial Fund

I Just Really Like Jackalopes by Danielle Kallstrom

As a kid I would draw anything that came to mind, no thought to it. As I got older and learned new techniques and developed my skills but do to the influence of the internet I found myself not drawing things that I would have before, in a spur of the moment "I just want to draw a dragon". I kept catching myself erasing my silly little drawings thinking "this isn't good enough, people won't like it". But recently, I've been drawing my silly guys and having a lot more fun doing it. So I decided to celebrate this, that I was going to draw some silly jackalopes

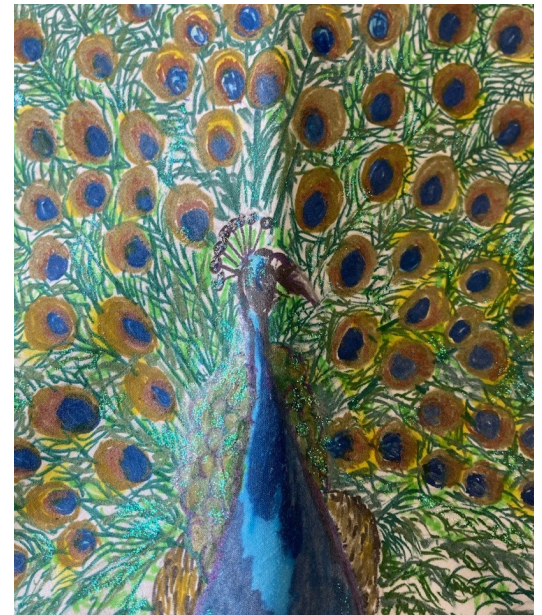
Installation Space #2

Sponsored by Bill & Carol Bronson

Kites by Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art Senior Drawing Class

All works were created in the Senior Art Class at Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art. This free program has been meeting almost every Tuesday from 1-3pm for the past decade. Making kites became a practical application of drawing within the theme of spring through a variety of materials including reused bedsheets, marshmallow roasting sticks, and leather fixings. The process involved sewing and fabricating to create original works with the tension and integrity of the kite form. Whether they fly or not is still up for determination.

<https://www.the-square.org/education>



Installation Space #3

Sponsored by Owen & Gayle Robinson

Teardrops for Humanity by Lisa A. Botti

As an adult daughter, as a sister, and as a mother, I am deeply saddened by the tragedies occurring in our country and around the world. I am disturbed by the irreverence for life that The Creator has gifted us all with. As an Artist and Social Worker by education, I feel compelled to use my creative abilities to raise awareness. There are numerous deeply sad losses and events happening in our country and around the world. I have chosen to highlight-MMIW< MMIP< the plight of the Ukrainians and the tragic treatment of the young women of Iran wanting basic freedoms and rights. I have handmade ceramic tiles in the shape of teardrops to illustrate my sadness. Despite my advancing age, I still believe in compassion for all. I have faith in humanity's ability to once again embrace this belief as well. The images on the tiles-MMIP, MMIW, Iranian Women and the Compassion for All, were co-created with Scott (Double G Engraving) my wooden stamp maker whom I have worked with for over ten years.



Installation Space #4

Sponsored by Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Coin Toss by Alisa Herodes

Cultural appropriation is a heavy topic. Even as a tribal member, I wage an internal battle when I see a sports team that calls themselves the Braves or the Chiefs. Natives can be proud those teams want to emulate our strength and courage, but when it comes to “cheers” like the tomahawk chop, that’s a step too far.

Using a Native American image – in full headdress no less – to sell commercial tobacco makes me shake my head in disbelief. It’s impossible to believe no one in their entire marketing team thought this was a bad idea. Messing with sacred tobacco is just bad medicine.

The buffalo nickel, on the other hand, is a perfect example of cultural appropriation put to good use. The coin, designed by a non-native person, depicts an American bison on one side and the profile of a Native American on the other. This every-day object was carried in pockets and purses (excuse me, pocketbooks -- it was minted, after all, from 1913 to 1938) without a thought that the coins’ design was “inspired by natives” rather than created by “inspired natives”.

So, why do I feel the Buffalo Nickel is an okay use of Native American representation and the tomahawk chop is “cringe-worthy”? Who am I to depict whether it is poor, or proper use?

As you peruse the “Coin Toss” window, consider your thoughts on my use of the buffalo nickel and my borrowing from the local landscape. Am I appropriating? Is that OK? You decide.



Installation Space #5

Sponsored by Gary & Nancy Zadick

Clowning Around by Erica Wilbur

Clowns have a mediocre representation. Movies, books, and other media have been portraying them as scary for years, but clowns can be so much more than a simple scare. I adore clowns, and I have adored them for years. It has been a personal mission of mine to convince people not to be afraid of them, but I do understand where the fear comes from.

Painting your face to portray yourself as someone/something else, or to perhaps portray an emotion or a character, may seem odd to the general public. But, I personally believe the purpose of clowning around is to be an entertainment, and clowns who only intend to scare are simply incorrect.

Honk.



UAP Board Members:

Cortni Harant, Betsy Rogstad, Eliza Weber



Donate Today!

Urban Art Project
EIN 88-2468615



Installation Space #6

Sponsored by Neighbor Works

Twilight Creatures by Yuri Matsko

There's something captivating about driftwood. It speaks from a primordial world, before our words and storybooks. Each piece is like an ancient artifact, weathered and encrusted through everlasting tribulations.

While I walked along the riverbank, this bleached and wizened wood became something more: *here's a long femur bone, over there's a bit of a skull, and maybe that's an awkwardly bent spine*, all protruding from the mud and water. I collected these almost anatomical remnants by the carload and brought them home, determined to piece them together like some novice paleontologist haphazardly putting together nameless dinosaurs.

As I fastened the pieces together in the dim light of the garage, strange creatures began to take shape. I tried hard not to make any composition look like something in particular; instead, I focused on placing each piece of wood somewhere it seemed to best "fit." After screwing and nailing enough pieces together, the amalgamation became itself—a new creature, motionless and silent in the twilight of winter.



Installation Space #7

Sponsored by City of Great Falls Parking Program

So Many Dots by Nadine Stierstorfer

My mind is everywhere with art. In this piece I wanted to give psychedelic nature vibes, as well as hiking in a dream. Usually it's the foliage that steals the show, the beauty of it, but I also wanted to show the magnificent explosion of color that is a "human". The connection between people and plants is closer than we think. And in this I think we just swap roles. Plants take the background, humans take the stage.



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Installation Space #8

Sponsored by Downtown Great Falls Association (DGFA)

Create. Iterate. Animate. by Jacob Novack

Animation has a reputation as an unapproachable medium, that you need to be in the industry in order to learn it. But that's simply not the case. Anyone can animate. *Create. Iterate. Animate.* aims to illustrate how accessible the medium can be by breaking down Jacob Novak's approach to animating. most into something elegant, vogue, but still strange.





Installation Space # 9

Sponsored by GF Business Improvement District

Weather Canvas: Illuminating the World's Weather Patterns by Aaron & Mackenzie Oliver

In "Weather Canvas: Illuminating the World's Weather Patterns," we embark on a captivating exploration of the atmospheric symphony that envelopes our planet, integrating the power of technology to create an interactive artistic experience. Through a harmonious blend of art and innovation, we invite viewers to immerse themselves in the ever-changing weather conditions across the globe. Our exhibit serves as a testament to the immense diversity and interconnectedness of Earth's weather systems, enhanced by cutting-edge technology. Using interactive installations and data visualization, we transcend traditional artistic boundaries to foster a deeper understanding and connection with the natural world. Harnessing the capabilities of technology, our canvas becomes a living, breathing entity, responding to real-time weather data sourced from around the world. Visitors will witness the dynamic visualization of weather patterns, with colors, shapes, and forms shifting in sync with atmospheric conditions. They will have the opportunity to engage directly with the artwork, altering its appearance and even influencing its behavior through interactive interfaces. As viewers interact the exhibit, they become active participants, shaping the visual representation of weather phenomena. Through a web interface, they can control the intensity of rain, the speed of wind, or even simulate the eruption of a thunderstorm. This fusion of art and technology invites visitors to step into the role of co-creators, bridging the gap between observer and artist. By seamlessly blending artistry with interactivity, we aim to kindle a sense of wonder, curiosity, and stewardship for our planet's atmospheric marvels. Our intention is to spark dialogue about climate change, the delicate balance of ecosystems, and our shared responsibility to protect and preserve the Earth's natural systems. "Weather Canvas: Illuminating the World's Weather Patterns" is an invitation to experience the beauty, complexity, and interconnectedness of our planet's atmospheric symphony through the lens of interactive art. Join us on this artistic voyage where technology and creativity converge, allowing you to shape and be shaped by the wondrous world of weather. Together, let us embrace our collective role as custodians of the Earth and forge a deeper connection to the awe-inspiring forces that shape our lives.



Installation Space #10

Sponsored by Harant Heating, Cooling & Remodeling

Brothers by Judah W. Litzinger

Nearing the end of my first year in art school, I have learned many new techniques and abilities that have increased my skills in art through various mediums. I have learned to better use digital equipment, to add more realistic details to an image, and to create atmosphere and emotion with lighting. Through this summer term, I have gotten a chance to live with my two brothers again, and it has given me a reminder of how much I appreciate them. So with my new skills in lighting, composition, and technicality, I wanted to bring stories from the Bible to life, each being a story of brothers. Using paint and markers, I wanted to bring out the greatest emotions of the people within these stories to better help the viewers understand the emotions they must have felt, and to use an image to tell the stories I have grown up with. I hope these images can inspire creativity within those who view my series "Brothers." I hope through these four images: "The Bull," "The Birthright," "Innocent Sacrifice," and "The Thief," I can tell a story detailed enough to bring out the emotions, but enough to make people wonder how they happened in the first place.



Installation Space #11

Sponsored by Kelly Signs & Designs

Once in a Blue Trout by Brian Morger

Several years ago I heard there was a Blue Trout at the Giant Springs Fish Hatchery. I was curious and went to see it. It's wonder didn't disappoint as it seemed to glow an iridescent blue as it glided the length of the outdoor holding pond. I was fascinated and learned that the blue skinned mutation was a one in ten thousand hatchling mutation. I imagined its rarity and spectacle as a wild fish in the cold and clear mountain streams. I also learned that its special appearance also endangered its life. The metaphors it represented plied my mind and the inspiration for a homespun myth concerning my father wrote its story over the next few days.



Welcome to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians as a new UAP sponsor!



Thank you to all of our business and civic sponsors!



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 recently became its own 501c3, EIN #88-2468615, with the help of Bill Bronson. The UAP board members include Betsy Rogstad, Eliza Weber, and Cortni Harant.

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 Urban Art Project

Memo Line: UAP Sponsorship

Mail or deliver your donations to:

Great Falls Urban Art Project, C/O Cortni Harant,
1506 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59401

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