

A N N E L A B O V I T Z

I create work about how political, social, and cultural platforms can be turned into personal acts of care.

Conversation and interaction are integral parts of my creative process which allow me to explore a blurred boundary between gallery exhibit and social practice. Color, texture, installation, and community building all combine to create a shared space of connection and contemplation. .

The exploration of a global web of connection has been prevalent in my work for much of my career. As my extensive travels exposed me to more global relationships, I sought to share my experience with others. The result was the monumental *122 Conversations: Person to Person: Art Beyond Borders*. This self-produced project consists of conversations with 60 individuals representing each of Duluth, Minnesota's Sister Cities. Together, we shared stories of joys, concerns, community, generosity, and countless other topics. My graffiti-like marks are a response to these conversations, and reveal a global connection forged by personal experience. The resulting scrolls marks a point of departure in practice, medium, and scale. The culmination of this project is the installation at both MSP Airport Terminals 1 and 2.

Before the use of Tyvek® scrolls, my work gravitated towards portraiture. Examples from this period also explored connection, while focusing more on identity and family than global concepts. My fascination with overlapping narrative can be seen here in my layered approach. In 2015, I made my first scroll for *122*. Though notably smaller than my current scrolls, the work stands as an immediate praxis change in terms of medium, color, and incorporation of marks/written word. This is the start of my representation of conversation as portraiture. My shift to Tyvek® scrolls allows for varied possibilities of creation which has since influenced my gravitation towards other large-scale work.

A common element of my exhibitions is the ability for viewers to respond to their experience immediately and creatively. I call this practice relational exchange, and use it as a display of gratitude for my viewers and interviewees. I often supply materials for viewers to use as they see fit, and include these responses in some capacity in the gallery itself. Another form of this exchange is the gifting of small pieces of a larger artwork. The invitation to the creative process and the giving away of my own work is my way of showing care through art.