

Making the unseen visible through True/False art

The 13 art installations at the 2022 True/False Film Fest center around the theme of In/visible Villages

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"Entanglement of Hope" by Anne Labovitz is a sculpture, installation and participatory work about the conceptual and gestural elements of hope. It will be displayed in the lobby of the Picturehouse throughout the True/False Film Fest.

DAVID SHERMAN

Art is one of the staple features at the 2022 True/False Film Fest. This year, there will be 13 art installations that all center around the theme of In/Visible Villages, or making the unseen visible. The purpose of these art installations is to bring things that aren't spoken about or widely known to the forefront as a means to inspire connection across communities and evoke hope.

Amir George, True/False art curator and film programmer, says the art installations add a unique touch to the festival's atmosphere. "They help further True/False's artistic identity," George says.

Every year, artists submit proposals to have their artwork displayed during True/False. "We ask artists to respond to different prompts that's related to the theme," George says. Many of this year's artists are from Columbia, but others come from around the United States and even the world.

One of the art installations at this year's True/False is "Certain Exclusions." This installation by Amanda Burnham will look different every day as she installs in parts throughout the festival. It will be made up of hundreds of different paint sketches, evolving into a collage on the Orr Street Studio Gallery walls. "I use the same types of materials that you would find in a normal, more normative, small-scale collage, but the scale is much larger than life size," Burnham says.

On the True/False website, this piece is said to be an "ever changing narrative as anecdotal moments recorded and observed from her explorations of Columbia."

Burnham, the 2022 True/False artist-in-residence, shared her excitement at being involved in the festival. George says that this is the first time in a while the festival will have an artist-in-residence. In addition to participating in the festival, Burnham* will also be speaking to MU art graduate students.

"My work is sort of an attempt to document the ephemeral things you find around you on street corners and in urban areas," Burnham says. With "Certain Exclusions" being open to the public, Burnham hopes that people come and speak with her as she's working on the installation. The informal interactions and finding out people's relationship to a place are important to her.

Another art installation, "Entanglement of Hope," was created by Minnesota-based artist Anne Labovitz. The sculpture took her around four or five months to complete. She describes herself as an artist who challenges isolation, loneliness and disconnect by activating color, light and energy. Hope is something that Labovitz actively researches, and that research is embedded in her work. "I'm interested in the power of a positive, profound, radical choice in hoping," Labovitz says.



It took Anne Labovitz about four or five months to complete "Entanglement of Hope." This sculpture is one of 13 art installations centering on the In/visible Villages theme at this year's True/False.

DAVID SHERMAN

"Entanglement of Hope" will be displayed in the Picturehouse Lobby. It's made of colorful industrial construction material hanging from the ceiling. In that material will be subliminal messages on the sculpted paper that are intended to be discovered.

"I just think that in the face of what we've all lived through in terms of the global pandemic, racial reckoning and now the unsettling truth of war in Ukraine; hope is a radical choice," Labovitz says "I'm hopeful that the audiences will choose to long for a better tomorrow together."

Some art installations will be returning to the 2022 festival including "Barb the Buffalo." The sculpture was crafted by the hands of True/False art volunteers and is made up of thousands of keyboard keys. The piece will be displayed in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church.

Also making a repeat appearance will be "Dragon" on the Picturehouse Lawn. As described on the True/False website, this piece is the beloved guardian and guide to the festival.

Other art installations will be featured at the Sculpture Yard on Ninth Street, the Missouri Theatre and more locations downtown throughout the festival, which begins on March 3.

*A previous version of this story misspelled Amanda Burnham's last name.

Updated information: This story was updated Monday afternoon to include details from Amanda Burnham.

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True/False Film Fest

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