Bmore Art

A JOURNAL OF ART + IDEAS

Community Art

Five Visual Artists Explore the Meaning and Relevance of Community

Curated by Cara Ober

The Baltimore Mobile Community Brick Monument by Marian April Glebes

The Baltimore Mobile Community Brick Monument is an on-going series of site-specific installations of handmade bricks that will become a permanent gift of public art to the City of Baltimore. Made by The Baltimore Mobile Community Brick Factory, by Marian April Glebes and Josh Copus, these handmade bricks are produced from local Maryland clay using historic waterstruck wooden mold methods. Through a series of events and workshops, the artists invite the people of Baltimore to make and personalize each brick by inscribing stories and ideas about home, place, history, and personal experience.

Counterpunch | Contragolpe: Stories of the Latina Fight by Tanya Garcia

Counterpunch | Contragolpe: Stories of the Latina Fight by artist, curator, educator, and organizer Tanya Garcia documents the lives of three women who work at MICA's Facilities Management Department through photography, video, and the creation of original boxing capes, depicted here. Their fight for family and future reveals, in part, the trajectory of the Latina voice: resilience, strength, and love.

This project not only explored the lives of a specific community, it required a collaborative group for its creation. It included boxing garment concept and design by Elvira Jesus, Martha Guevera, Maria Huitron, and Garcia; graphic and typography design by N'Deye Diakhate; and applique embroidery by April Camlin.

Wickerham & Lomax: DUOX4Odell's: *You'll Know If You Belong*

Through an installation spanning multiple projections, personal testimonies, and free-standing sculpture, Wickerham & Lomax investigated the rich history of Odell's, a legendary nightclub located on North Avenue from 1976-1992. Installed in the former Everyman Theatre as part of Light City 2017, this project was an ode to the legacy of the club and an attempt to preserve and illuminate its cultural memory in contemporary Baltimore club culture. DUOX4Odell's highlighted moments of collective joy created by Odell's and the creative, expansive group who thrived in the space, while questioning how the legacy of these individuals and the cultural institutions they built are being honored and preserved today. This project acted as a reminder of the strength and beauty that predates what is now known as the Station North Arts & Entertainment District.

New Public Sites: Walking Tours by Graham Coreil-Allen

Public artist Graham Coreil-Allen's *New Public Sites* tour program offers radical, participatory walks that identify, promote, and activate public space while expanding the boundaries of pedestrian agency. Each journey explores the history, design, and use of overlooked public areas. The ongoing series began in 2007 and offers several local walks, including "Crossing the Highway to Nowhere," "Reservoir Chill," "Old Town Walking Revival," and "Power Plant Alive!" The tours are also available as a *New Public Sites* YouTube video channel series that captures the artist and walking tour participants in playful explorations. Featured in the Venice Architecture Biennale and on *99% Invisible*, *New Public Sites* tours build on Coreil-Allen's background in public art, urban planning, and advocacy. In addition to walking tours, the public artist creates installations for pedestrian safety and play, and offers participatory design and engagement strategies through his creative agency, Graham Projects.

Gianna Rodriguez and Baltimore Youth Arts at Gallery CA

Baltimore Youth Arts (BYA) is a creative entrepreneurship program run by artist-educators, founded and directed by Gianna Rodriguez, a visual and performing artist. BYA provides job readiness programming to youth, with a focus on those involved in the juvenile and criminal justice systems. BYA uses the arts to engage youth with the goal of building long-lasting, mentoring relationships, using the arts as a path toward social, emotional, and educational development.

In fall 2017, the BYA Studio Apprentice Program will expand to include a youth-run gallery that will engage young people, ages 14-21, in the curation of monthly exhibitions at the Platform Arts Center. Youth will engage in every step of the curatorial process, working together to develop content, research and contact relevant artists, as well as help to design and install each show.

Graham Coreil-Allen: *New Public Sites: Walking Tours*, photo courtesy of ICA Baltimore, Mural by Pixel Poncho from the *Articulate Baltimore* project.

Graham Coreil-Allen: ***New Public Sites: Walking Tours***, top: photo courtesy of ICA Baltimore; bottom: photo courtesy of Graham Projects, right: photo by Melissa Webb

Graham