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## Rotating public art on display

Redwood City preps for 24/7 installation

By Zachary Clark Daily Journal staff Jan 5, 2019 Updated Jan 5, 2019



A new form of public art is coming to Redwood City.

Starting Saturday, one of the glass-covered kiosks in Courthouse Square will be home to an art installation on view 24 hours a day and illuminated at night. Each month of the year, a new piece of artwork in a different medium will be installed in

the space, and on select days, the artists will be available to discuss their work with curious passersby.

The yearlong project titled “Art Kiosk” will feature 10 local, national and international artists and it will be devoted to what’s known as installation art.

“Installation art encompasses painting, sculpture, photography and video. It’s an artwork that’s an environment. You’re able to walk through it and experience something,” said Lance Fung, a curator who conceived and organized the project. “This is a unique hybrid between public art and installation art and I honestly don’t know of an exhibition space quite like this.”

While the project debuts this weekend, it will see an official ribbon-cutting ceremony Feb. 2. The first artist to be featured is Redwood City resident Erin Ashford, whose piece “We Make a Home” will be on view throughout January.

For the piece, Ashford sat down with about 100 locals, made a cast of their hand and then painted the cast with colors selected by the owner of the hand to match their skin tone. The casts were then placed over a small structure, like roof tiles, that’s been erected in one of the Courthouse Square kiosks.

“The piece is about all of the relationships that I’ve developed in the last five years and this is a new community for me. I’ve only been here five years now and there’s just a sense of overwhelming welcoming in this community,” Ashford said. She also recorded oral stories of those residents on the topic of home, and the audio will play on loop in the exhibition space. “All of these stories are coming together under one roof.”

Ashford has been creating the casts in a series of workshops she’s held in just about every neighborhood in the city in recent months, and the idea is to continue hosting workshops throughout January, cast residents’ hands and add them to the piece to symbolize how Redwood City is an ever-evolving community, she said.

“Ashford wanted to show that one of the most important aspects of life is a sense of home, whether you own or rent, a sense of home is important and she believes community creates the sense of home,” Fung added.

This is Ashford's first installation art piece. She's a photographer by trade with a downtown studio and also a member of the Redwood City Civic Cultural Commission. She has taught photography to local students for years and her work can be seen in the library's permanent collection as well as in various solo and group exhibitions over the past 15 years.

For Fung, it was important that the exhibition include both local and international talent.

Following Ashford, the space will feature work by Berkeley-based Kate Dodd, Nora Naranjo Morse and Eliza Naranjo Morse from Santa Fe, New Mexico; Frank Boban from San Mateo, Paul Kos from San Francisco, Katharine Umsted and Jennifer Wen Ma, both from New York and Joseph Clayton Mills from Phoenix, Arizona, among other artists.

"Each of the artists comes with their own philosophy and there are projects about migration and climate change, for example, and materials range from paper to video to paint," Fung said. "I guarantee if you see all 10 shows not one will be redundant."

The project is the result of a partnership between Fung's company, Fung Collaboratives, the city of Redwood City and the Redwood City Improvement Association, which pitched in \$50,000 for the exhibition.

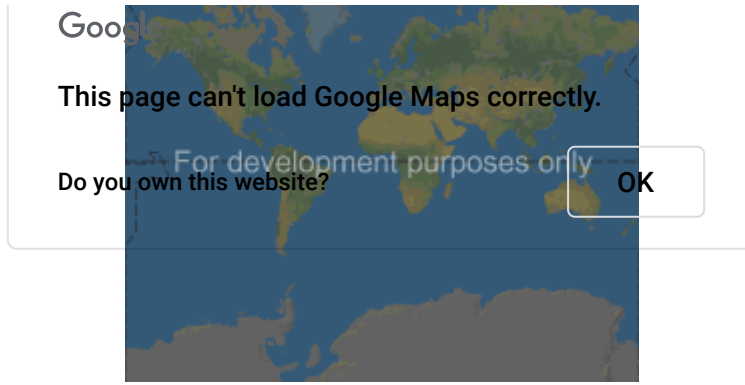
Said Don Gibson, president of the Redwood City Improvement Association:

"The project aims to further our commitment to enhancing and beautifying the community for residents and visitors while also making the downtown an artistic hub for local artists to showcase their works of art."

Visit Courthouse Square to experience the exhibition and more information about it will be posted at [fungcollaboratives.org](http://fungcollaboratives.org) by mid-January.

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