



MEDIA ALERT
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**City of Los Angeles
Department of Cultural Affairs
Launches Virtual Exhibition
*Reimagine Public Art: Vol. 2***

Los Angeles - The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) today launched ***Reimagine Public Art: Vol. 2***, a virtual exhibition produced by DCA’s Public Art Division that highlights how artists respond to, and reimagine, Los Angeles as the COVID-19 pandemic continues into its second year.

In August 2020, DCA’s Public Art Division and the Los Angeles City Council designated \$340,000 in Arts Development Fees to establish a Citywide COVID-19 Emergency Response Program to provide emergency economic relief to individual artists who live in Los Angeles. ***Reimagine Public Art: Vol. 1*** launched in May 2021. Out of 940 submissions, over 70 local artists were selected for the second edition to examine what forms of public art can emerge from this new socially produced space. This online public art exhibition, including existing and commissioned works, established a representation of this virtual public realm as the city reopened. As a companion, *Vol. 1* will be archived and available to be further explored in association with *Vol. 2*.

“The Department of Cultural Affairs created ***Reimagine Public Art*** to capture this moment and introduce a compelling lineup of artists working across all mediums to give people a glimpse of what hybrid forms public art might take as the city adjusts and opens,” said **Danielle Brazell, DCA’s General Manager**. “Volume two explores four Los Angeles neighborhoods: Central, South, Northeast LA, and the Northwest Valley, and how Angelenos have already altered their interactions with each other between virtual and physical public spaces.”

For the second edition, all of the artists participating in ***Reimagine Public Art: Vol. 2*** will be included in the main online gallery space, and some have been selected to take part in two Curatorial Showcases. After reviewing the artwork submitted, DCA’s Public Art Division identified two common threads that artists were using to define the following dimensions

that make up this new public realm. **Reframe** is a look at how people present themselves and the emotions present within the context of a quarantine and as restrictions are lifted. **Restructure** looks at how individuals have found themselves navigating the role-reversal of the previously strange and uncertain life in quarantine versus what was once familiar, but has now been out of reach during the pandemic. The artists highlighted in the Curatorial Showcases were able to best illustrate one or more of these aspects. Artists in both Curatorial Showcases were posed a guiding question: *What do you look forward to exploring in your neighborhood in terms of public art and/or community as the city reopens?* Their answers are highlighted in the artist showcases.

For the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic reshaped the ways individuals interact with one another onscreen, in-person, and at a distance. During this time many explored the outdoors, picked up hobbies, traveled, worked from home for the first time, and expanded their creative sides. In a collective search for these things, people outgrew the norm and artists pushed the limits between art in public and private spaces. As Angelenos begin to alternate their interactions with each other between virtual and physical public spaces, the exhibition asks: *What will be the prime takeaway from the pandemic for communities in relation to public art?*

To view **Reimagine Public Art: Vol. 2** and learn more about the virtual exhibition, please visit: <https://culturela.org/reimagine/>

DCA gives special thanks to the **Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI)** for serving as an essential intermediary partner with this initiative.

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles's vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA's residents and visitors, and ensure LA's varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA's mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grantmaking, public art, community arts, performing arts, and strategic marketing, development, design, and digital research. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

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