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"The Texture of the Weave" Heather Hart, 2022



Heather Hart. Onyx IV, 2020. Wood, paper, watercolor, ink, mineral, metal leaf.

Heather Hart's "The Texture of the Weave" installation speaks to the interplay of ideas between different entities and the result of this exchange.

The exhibition features roof-like sculptures and framed, wooden walls. Both are inspired by the carpentry skills Hart learned from her father - invoking the exchange of information between generations. The walls form a labyrinth of corridors in the gallery. As visitors walk through the corridors they activate the space, bringing unique energy and interpretation to work. The participation of visitors invokes the collaborative exchange of meaning between the artist, the work, and the individual.

This exhibition is designed to cultivate and appreciate the ways that individuals all contribute to the "texture of the weave." Hart, her ancestors, and the audience are all "threads" contributing to the "weave," here, a metaphor for the greater collective experience of sharing space. The art acknowledges both truths: that the individual and the collective are valid, important and worth celebrating.



Detail, Texture of the Weave

"This work depends on the public and activation to complete it."



Meet the Artist!

Heather Hart, based in Brooklyn, is an interdisciplinary artist exploring the power in thresholds, questioning dominant narratives, and creating alternatives to them. Hart is an Assistant Professor at Mason Gross School for Art + Design, a member of the Black Trustee Alliance for Art Museums, an external advisor for AUC Art Collective, and a trustee at Storm King Art Center. She is currently a 2021-2022 Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University.

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Intergenerational Skillshare

Heather Hart's "The Texture of the Weave" calls upon craftsmanship she learned from her father. This activity invites you to investigate and activate elder knowledge held in your community.

Possiblities:

A specific doodle
Cursive handwriting
Cooking a dish
Mending or fixing items
Building or construction
Playing an instrument,
Reciting a song or prayer
Arts and crafts skills
Sports techniques
Card games or playground
games
Magic tricks
"Life Hacks"
Spiritual rituals



- 1. Identify an elder in your family, friend group or community.
- 2. Ask them to teach you something they know. For a list of ideas, check out the possibilities box. Some guidance: the information ought to be something activity/skill based. It could be something they learned on their own, or perhaps something they learned from their own elders! It can be super simple or elaborate. What's important is the passage of knowledge between generations. Consider documenting this learning process either through photo, video, or audio recordings.
- 3. Thank your elder for their time and expertise.
- 4. After learning the skill from your elder, think of a way to honor this new information.
 - Incorporate the skill into your creative practice or daily life
 - Publish a written, photo, visual, or audio account of the skill in order to share or preserve the information
 - Demonstrate the skill to others in your social network, giving credit to your elder