

WaterWorks: By Jane Ingram Allen

July 8-August 7, 2009

First Friday receptions: July 10 and August 7, 5-8pm

Gallery hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 12–6 pm

Jane Ingram Allen's interactive handmade paper and video installation entitled ***Water Works*** will cascade and fill the entry exhibition space at the Boston Sculptors Gallery July 8- August 7, 2009, with a **live performance** at the First Friday receptions July 10 and August 7, 5-8pm.

In ***WaterWorks***, Allen explores the element of water and its power and potential to affect transformation. Some of the works invite viewer participation and involve change over time. Others are about environmental problems related to water and raise awareness about the importance of clean fresh water. ***Just Add Water*** is a multimedia installation focused on the instant transformation that occurs when water is sprayed on crimped paper strips. The random sporadic wiggling movement of the paper as it relaxes and expands with the addition of water is captured in a video and demonstrated in a live performance at the exhibition opening. A limited edition DIY (Do It Yourself) Kit is also part of the installation, and visitors can purchase the kit to make their own ***Just Add Water*** phenomenon. Each kit is signed by the artist and contains a handmade instruction booklet, a spray bottle, and handmade paper.

No Water was made after her February 2008 artist-in-residency in Tanzania, Africa, and evokes the parched earth, drought-stricken crops and dry fields of Northwestern Tanzania where there is often no water. The handmade paper created from plants of Tanzania is rubbed with red clay from Africa and includes bits of dry withered grass. ***No Water*** is in the shape of a human footprint referring to the human actions that have caused global warming and intensified water problems in many parts of the world.

In ***Falling Water*** panels of handmade paper joined with string cascade from ceiling to floor like a waterfall or falling rain. Fluid lines are drawn with biodegradable Chinese ink on the handmade mulberry bark paper that contains seeds for wildflowers. The seeds in the handmade paper express a potential for transformation. After its exhibition this work can be placed on the earth to decompose as mulch and after some rain or watering, come back as wildflowers.

Every Drop Counts is a participatory installation composed of handmade paper drops arranged like water drops on the shower door. Viewers can take a drop of water from this installation, and place this handmade paper drop on the earth. The handmade paper drop contains seeds for wildflowers, and after water is added, it will sprout and grow, showing us water's transformative power. As viewers participate by taking drops, new ones will be added, and the installation will transform continually during the exhibition.

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