

# Press Release

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The American Dream Project  
Artists LigoranoReese Melt The American Dream



*The American Dream*, 2016 Independence Mall, Philadelphia, PA rendering by LigoranoReese

At 1 PM on Monday, July 25, 2016, artists **Nora Ligorano** and **Marshall Reese** unveil a 4,000-pound sculpture carved in ice of the words *The American Dream* on the grounds of **Independence Mall** located between Independence Hall and The Constitution Center in Philadelphia, PA. Their public art work spans the **Republican** and **Democratic National Conventions** to focus on issues of equality and the erosion of opportunity in society.

The artists intend for *The American Dream*, measuring 30 feet wide and 5 feet tall, to melt away. They photograph and film the installation's disappearance streaming it on the internet in real-time (<http://meltedaway.com>). According to Ligorano, "Melting ice as a material is a perfect medium to show the disappearance of equality and opportunity. This is not specific to one party. Our country is in crisis. Our hopes is that these installations open up a space for making common ground."

In Philadelphia, LigoranoReese have invited guest writers to be writers in residence during the event. They will be writing and blogging about seeing the American Dream disappear. A chorus of poets and writers flanking the sculpture will read from their texts and those of writers such as Claudia Rankine, Mike Davis, Charles Reznikoff on the state of America.

"We make art for social change. This artwork is sculpture, installation, performance, and an internet event. We combine all of these media to activate public space to discuss and to inspire people to think about ways to make society more equitable and fair." Marshall Reese says.

The project follows earlier ice projects by the artists, which they call "temporary monuments." In 2008, the artists installed ice sculptures of the words *Democracy* at the political conventions, *Economy* on the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Depression, and *Middle Class* in 2012 in Charlotte and Tampa. These ice sculptures materially underscore the impact of social and political forces on the country.

Tweeting @melted\_away, #ligoranoreese, #publicart, #AmericanDreamProject #meltingopportunity, #July19

## LIGORANOREESE

**Nora Ligorano** and **Marshall Reese** collaborate as **LigoranoReese**. Their artwork examines society through images and sound from print, television, internet, and radio. They have exhibited at the Biennial of Contemporary Art, Cartagena, Columbia, Catharine Clark Gallery, Kent Fine Art, Portland Art Museum, MIT MediaLab, Museum of Arts & Design, New York Public Library, and Lincoln Center. They have received funding from the Jerome Foundation, Puffin Foundation, NYFA, NYSCA, NEA, and been in residence at the MacDowell Colony, Montalvo Arts Center, and Djerassi Resident Artists Program. They are represented by Catharine Clark Gallery.