

Press Release

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TRUTH BE TOLD: PUBLIC ART ON THE NATIONAL MALL A Temporary Monument, A Public Conversation



Truth Be Told - Artists' rendering by Nora Ligorano [Link to HiRes Image](#)

WHEN: Saturday, September 22, 2018, 11am until it's gone

WHERE: National Mall, 3rd Street SW, corner of Jefferson Drive SW, Washington D.C.

WHAT: High Impact Visuals. Public Art, a temporary monument in 2000 lbs of ice

TRUTH is melting before our eyes. Artist duo LigoranoReese bring "Truth Be Told" to our political landscape, with a literal ton of ice in a one-word melting poem standing in contrast to the force and speed at which basic concepts of our nation's history and governance are being undermined. What are we losing in the era of #fakenews? Combining message and medium, the unprotected work is intended to melt until it's gone.

"Truth Be Told" is the sixth sculpture of the Melted Away series begun in 2006. The temporary monuments of Melted Away are markers for the opening decades in the 21st century - first, DEMOCRACY broken, then, the ECONOMY ruined; the MIDDLE CLASS disappears, THE FUTURE is tenuous, THE AMERICAN DREAM vanishes. TRUTH is an open question.

Melting ice is an ideal medium to depict the transformation of social values and semantic meaning. For Nora Ligorano the materiality of ice is essential to this artwork. "Ice is a time-based material and brings to mind feelings of loss and decay as it erodes. If you think of these pieces as temporary monuments, and monuments are public artworks for people to contemplate, bringing truth to Washington gives people the opportunity to reflect on what we are losing, because truth is at the center of it," Ligorano says.

A writers residency accompanies the sculpture on the mall; DC-based writers and poets include: Sarah Browning, Split This Rock, Leslie Bumstead, Sepideh Jodeyri, Magus Magus, Chris Mason, Mark McMorris, Ethelbert Miller, Casey Smith, Bernard Welt, others to be announced.

With the iconic U.S. Capitol in the background, this latest installation of Melted Away speaks to an America where belief supplants truth. The disappearance of the 10 foot wide, 7 foot tall sculpture is documented in photography and film, and streamed live on meltedaway.com, artseverywhere.ca, FacebookLive and to a network of galleries and websites in North America.

"This is a hybrid artwork. We're combining sculpture, installation, performance, and the interne to activate public space, to encourage people to think about the ways truth has changed over the past year," Marshall Reese says.

The sculpture is the focal point for a series of public events taking place in Washington around the themes of integrity and truth. On Friday, September 21, 6:30-8:30pm Busboys and Poets 450 K Street, NW, hosts a reading with D.C. poets, "Getting The News From Poems."

After the melt, the artists convene with PEN America and Defending Rights & Dissent at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design at George Washington University for a panel, open to the public, called "TRUTH BE TOLD: For Freedoms 50 State Initiative," on Sunday, September 23, 1-3pm, Hammer Auditorium at 500 17th Street NW.

Instagram @meltedaway, Tweeter @melted_away, Ligorano Reese on Facebook, #ligoranoreese, #publicart, #TruthBeTold, #TRUTH, #TruthisTruth

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