



AREA VISUAL ARTS GROUPS TEAM UP FOR TRAVELING CORONAVIRUS PROJECT

“The Corona/Crown Project,” honor front-line workers and everyday heroes, traveling through hard-hit communities and visiting medical areas starting May 5.

Final touches and prep work continues outside ArtSpace Maynard facility thru Monday.

May 1, 2020 – MAYNARD, Mass. – Two leading contemporary arts organizations, [The Revolving Museum](#) and [ArtSpace Maynard](#), have teamed up this month on a bilingual, traveling public artwork – titled “The Corona/Crown Project” – which honors the efforts of healthcare and agricultural workers, as well as the everyday people contributing to community wellbeing during the coronavirus pandemic.

The project comprises two vehicles including a transformed, 1952 Ford pickup truck covered in short poems that encourage vigilance to public health advice, and inspire hope. It hauls a trailer featuring a moving sculpture with poetry and coronavirus-inspired art. A second vehicle tows a 10-foot head sculpture sporting a bejeweled crown and cloth mask. More than 100 artists, young people, and community participants responded to an open call to contribute poems and artwork, including a series of “CURE CELLS” – artworks representing anti-viruses.

“We wanted to create, with our community, a heartfelt appreciation for the devoted people who work in essential services, and to reflect the hardships that have befallen working-class and immigrant populations,” says Revolving Museum Artistic Director Coraly Rivera. “This rolling exhibition is a reminder there’s life after devastation,” she says.

ArtSpace Maynard Executive Director Jerry Beck says “The Corona/Crown Project” will travel through areas of Greater Boston, Essex County and Worcester County, and will adhere to social distancing and personal protection recommendations. To avoid drawing crowds, the vehicle will travel through areas and neighborhoods where people can see it from windows or outside at a safe distance. It will visit locations where people line up for groceries and other essentials, and pass by traditional and makeshift hospitals. Locations and routes will be tracked on Twitter at @CoronaCrownArt, and using the hashtag #CoronaCrownArt.

The Project’s first journey sets out Tue., May 5, leaving Maynard at 10 AM and traveling to Boston, where it will circle the Massachusetts State House and Boston City Hall, then travel along streets in the South End, Back Bay, Fenway and Mission Hill neighborhoods before heading to the Longwood Medical Area and Brookline, and finishing up in Brighton and Allston (final route TBD). On Thu., May 7, “Corona/Crown” visits hard-hit Spanish-speaking areas of Chelsea, Lawrence, Fitchburg and Worcester. Outings later in May include visits to veterans’ facilities and an outside event showcasing 1-minute films projected from the “eyes” of the sculpted head.

“Artists have always responded to make the world a better place,” Beck says. “In the time of a stark public health crisis that has caused sickness and death across the world, art can demonstrate love, caring and encouragement, bringing thoughtfulness and healing to our communities.”

“The Corona/Crown Project” is made possible by DCU, Ledgerrock Welding & Fabricating, SteelFab, Kevin’s Place Auto Repair, David Beck, Rebecca Hoffberger & The American Visionary Art Museum, and Minuteman Press of Fitchburg.

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MEDIA NOTE: Interviews about “The Corona/Crown Project” are available by phone or in person (from a safe distance) in Maynard or at one of the exhibition’s stopping points. Travel routes are available 24 hours in advance, and dependent on weather conditions. For more details, contact John Michael Kennedy at jmk@jmkpr.com or 781-620-1761.



Coraly Rivera puts finishing touches on “Corona/Crown” – Photo: Charles Mayer