

Field Signs at 5Point Film Festival 2024

A flag installation by artist Lara Whitley

OVERVIEW

“Follow your curiosity, divert viable materials from the waste stream, and use creativity to keep the life cycle going.” This is the artist mission of Lara Whitley, maker of **Field Signs, an original art installation of flags** debuting at 5Point Film’s 17th annual adventure film festival from April 24 to 28, 2024 in Carbondale, Colorado. Field Signs is a reimagining of used tents, a “cloudscape” of flags that draws on the fabrics and colors of the outdoor industry, patterns found in nature, and the magic of camping. The piece will be suspended from the entry patio of the Carbondale Recreation Center to greet guests arriving to the festival or walking along the adjacent public path.

With Field Signs, Whitley – whose most recent work, Forest Spiral, was created from 3,000 pieces of glass she foraged from old dumping grounds – continues to transform waste into contemplative space. Collecting used tents from the community, she harvested the technical outdoor fabric to hand sew a series of 60 flags that will be animated by wind and sun. Whitley’s installation creates narratives of transformation, renewal and joy, while carrying the original stories of adventure infused in the recycled tents.

Holding Nature as her source, teacher and canvas, Whitley began the project as she often does, by walking the land. Immersing herself in her home habitat in the Roaring Fork Valley, she set about identifying, drawing, and painting the organic forms and patterns of the ecosystem. The resulting two dozen tiles that make up Field Signs – including local touchstones such as river meander, glacial erratic, and split rail fence – are a visual lexicon of the valley. For Whitley, 5Point is just the beginning of the project, which she hopes to grow with new journeys and new graphic forms that will be unique to the rhythms of each landscape she explores.

Field Signs in made possible by the generosity of Susan H. Brady, along with the in-kind support of 5Point Film, Ragged Mountain Sports, and many community members who have donated their tents and time to this project.

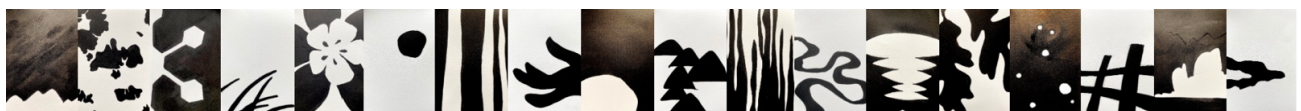
ARTIST BIO

Installation artist Lara Whitley finds joy in the materials given. She reclaims objects that society no longer desires – discarded, decommissioned or destined for the landfill – and regenerates them into new narratives. Whitley has rescued old bar bottles, dinner plates, boots, window panes and tents; she has reshaped them into contemplative spaces – a meditation temple, a forest shrine, a glass cabin in the woods – and countless abstract forms. She is interested in the renewal and healing that are available to all when we put broken things back together in new ways. A graduate of UC Berkeley, a student of community art centers, and an artistic fellow of the City of Aspen and Aspen Art Museum, Whitley lives with her family in Aspen, Colorado.

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Sample tiles, Field Signs by Lara Whitley

