

Notes for Noticing Companion Walk

Introduction

Notes for Noticing is an invitation from General Sisters for “moving and observing in a place where you have been before, to connect with knowledge that is part of your histories, your feelings, and those that are with you.” This free print offering is available at the Tufts University Art Galleries in the Aidekman Arts Center, Medford campus.

In the spirit of General Sisters’ call to co-create knowledge in familiar places, the Tufts University Art Galleries are pleased to present a companion self-guided walk. Prompts inspired and informed by *Notes for Noticing* pair with a handful of stops around Tufts’ campus.

Stop 1

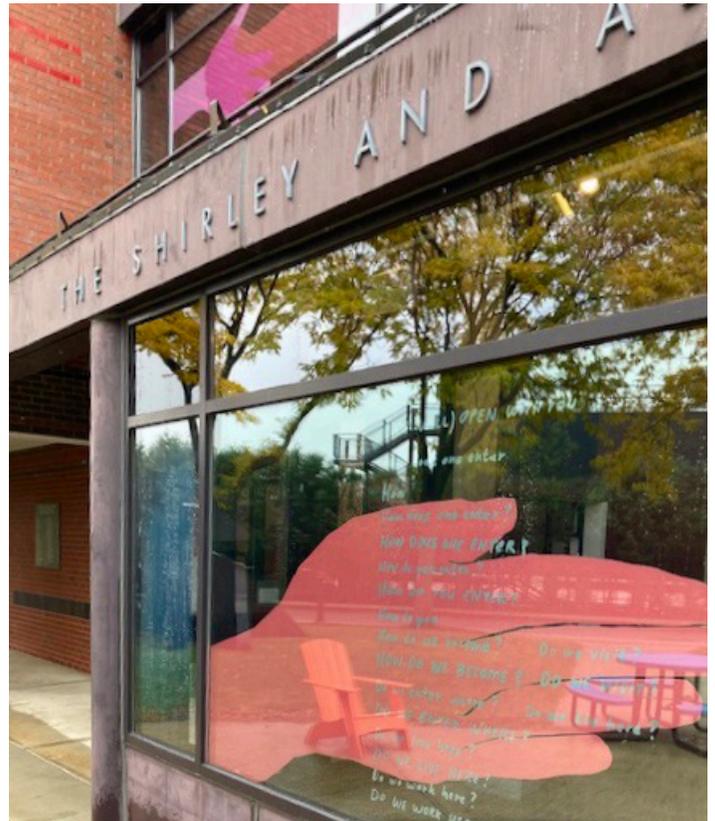
Richard Hunt, Planar Mountain (1971) + General Sisters, Singing We Must Rage (2020) Remis Sculpture Park, Aidekman Arts Center



Richard Hunt, *Planar Mountain*, 1971
Cor-ten steel
Tufts University Permanent Collection: Gift of Miriam R. Spertus, A85P, A92P 1987.3

Richard Hunt’s sculpture, paired with General Sisters’ installation as its backdrop, invites viewers to step into an alternative landscape—one where artists shape the landforms we see, and where we are urged to

contemplate what it means to live in reciprocity with and in relation to others. A pioneer in public art, Hunt has said: “Public sculpture responds to the dynamics of a community, or of those in it, who have a use for sculpture. It is this aspect of use, of utility, that gives public sculpture its vital and lively place in the public mind.”



General Sisters, *Singing We Must Rage*, 2020
Vinyl adhesives on glass window

What community dynamics do these artists articulate through their work? What community dynamics do you wish to create and live in relation to?

Between stops: General Sisters tell us: “With an inhale your lungs welcome what you know.” As you move between stops, turn your attention to your breath, cultivating awareness between the breath and the mind. How do they exist in relation to one another?

Stop 2

Jackie Ferrara, Alex's Place (2009) Tisch Library rooftop



Jackie Ferrara's installation atop the Tisch Library, *Alex's Place*, memorializes Alex Mendell, a Tufts student who died in 2003 at age 19. Before his untimely death, Mendell imagined new, creative uses for the then-vacant library roof. Ferrara, as well as Mendell's family, sought to fulfill the possibilities of his creative planning by making a space where community members could gather together or engage in individual contemplation. General Sisters encourage us to "place yourself in the place where you are."

This is a place for remembrance and for envisioning the places we wish to see in the future. What are you called on to remember here? What spaces—physical and conceptual—do you wish to create or inhabit in your future?



Top and Bottom: Jackie Ferrara, collaboration with M. Paul Friedberg
Alex's Place, 2009
Granite, concrete, brick, steel, planting
11, 240 sq. ft.
Tufts University Public Art Collection
Image courtesy the artist.

Between stops: As you move to the next stop, return to the breath. Consider how it expands and contracts space within your body. How does your body's relationship to the space surrounding it change with the breath?

Stop 3

Brick crescent, rear of Eaton Hall



Approaching the brick crescent at the rear of Eaton Hall.

At one rear corner of Eaton Hall stands a brick-paved, crescent-shaped plaza that produces an surprising acoustic effect. If you face the crescent in the right direction and speak aloud, anything you say will echo back to you.

General Sisters ask us, "In this time, what do you want?" If you like, speak your response to this question out loud and hear your own voice spoken back to you. If you are with another person, take this moment to speak to one another about your needs, desires, and hopes.



Facing the crescent.

Between stops: As you move between stops, return your attention to your breath. This time, focus on the sounds of your inhalations and exhalations. How do shifts in your breathing change these sounds?



A view of the rain garden.

Stop 4

Rain Garden

Tilton Lane between Hodgdon and Lewis Halls

On a quiet corner of campus between Hodgdon and Lewis Halls lies a stretch of land populated with pine trees, juniper bushes, and serviceberry plants. Unlike the paved surfaces that surround this garden, the bed of stones that runs through it allows rainwater to filter into the soil and nourish plant life.

General Sisters prompt us to consider “the sound of your foot connecting with the ground/ The scale of yourself in relation to what is rooted in the ground/ what is left over from the season before/ what is sprouting in the present tense.”

Reflect on these words as you inhabit this space in the present. Consider the roots extending far below and around you, which are sustained by every rainstorm. Moving forward, how can you further nourish your own roots, and the roots of others? What is left over from the previous season, and what is sprouting for you now—both in this rain garden and beyond?

Return to the breath. Consider it in light of your presence in the rain garden, a place of reciprocal, nourishing relationships. Your breath and the plants around you are in symbiosis with one another.

Conclusion

Notes for Noticing is designed to facilitate ongoing observations, and General Sisters and the Tufts University Art Galleries encourage you to revisit these sites and explorations over time. Please share your experiences with and suggestions for this offering with Natalie Gearin, TUAG Graduate Fellow, at natalie.gearin@tufts.edu.

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General Sisters, Detail from *Notes for Noticing*, 2021
Risograph print
11 x 4 1/2 in.



Tufts University Art Galleries

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