

UPDATE: 9 out of 13 pieces vandalized

Energy Necklace on the Emerald Necklace: Crossroads: by the Energy Necklace Project
Public Art on the Back Bay Fens promotes sustainability, Sept 14-Oct 13..

Across the street from Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, home to collections of world-renowned fine art and craftwork, is another sort of gallery, this one integrated into the landscape of the Back Bay Fens. Situated among trees and along the winding footpath are sculptures made of various materials: chicken bones and string, wooden chairs, woven clothing scraps... Each in some way references the themes of climate change and sustainability, inviting those who are passing through or have come to the park for a respite from urban life, to reflect more carefully about their connection to the natural world and to the community.

Fourteen temporary installations make up *Energy Necklace on the Emerald Necklace: Crossroads*, an exhibition curated and produced by the Energy Necklace Project, on display through October 13th. Energy Necklace Project is inspired by the work of Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of the Emerald Necklace park system, by fostering creativity and civic action through art in community spaces. The installation encourages individuals to question how our landscapes, urban and natural, will be altered as a result of climate change and to consider the role of the individual and community in developing environmental solutions.

Crossroads incorporates the work of fourteen regional artists from various backgrounds, including education and landscape design, several of whom have exhibited throughout New England. The artists faced several setbacks during installation, as four pieces were vandalized before the public opening and one piece was stolen within thirty-six hours. As of September 30th, 9 of 13 installed pieces (and some signage) have been vandalized or stolen. On September 26-27th "Haughty Eyes and Lying Tongue" by Peter Kronberg was smashed. Cast from Hydrocal cement reinforced with burlap and pipes, the plaster planes were extremely durable, and showed signs of tools and footprints where considerable force had been used to smash them. The exhibition was originally scheduled to remain until Dec 7th, but now will end sometime after October 13th, depending on whether or not the vandalism continues. Police are investigating. The artists have been patrolling the exhibition and repairing it daily. Police patrols have been increased. The vandalism is believed to be the work of students, although objections to the presence of art within the natural landscape has surfaced.

The installation opening on September 14th, however, has been enthusiastically received by the public, as passerbys paused to examine the sculptures and chat with the artists throughout the day. Crossroads will be part of the upcoming city-wide arts initiative ArtWeek Boston, offering a curator's talk and tour as an exclusive ArtWeek event on October 1, 5:30 -7 pm at the Shattuck Visitor Center, 125 The Fenway. ArtWeek runs September 26th through October 5th. CrossRoads also is part of the Fenway Alliance's Opening our Doors event, on October 13th, 11-4, with artist talks and family activities. Through these events, sponsored by NationalGrid, and in collaboration with Emerald Necklace Conservancy, ArtWeek Boston, Fenway Alliance/ Opening Our Doors and Greenovate Boston, Energy Necklace on the Emerald Necklace seeks to raise the visibility of both the arts and environmental issues.



Peter Kronberg, "Haughty Eyes, Lying Tongue"



Peter Kronberg, *"Haughty Eyes, Lying Tongue"*
Vandalized