

Janeil Engelstad Biography

Collaboratively and independently, Janeil Engelstad has produced multiform projects, community events, public art and exhibitions throughout the world. Her creative practice and community advocacy work often dovetail into projects that address social, historical and environmental concerns. Valuing the potential of insider/outsider collaborations, her process for this work involves embedding herself in communities, deep listening, extensive research, and building coalitions between community members, arts institutions, universities, government agencies, NGOs and others. These projects often create a place for marginalized voices to express their identity, experiences and points of view.

Engelstad's work has been exhibited and produced in partnership with ACT/MIT, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, ARTMargins, California Museum of Photography, Center for Book and Paper Arts, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Dallas Museum of Art, Hyde Park Art Center, International Center of Photography, Laznia Centre for Contemporary Art Gdańsk, Museum of Arts and Design, New York City Department of Transportation's Art Program, New York City Public Library, Oboro Montréal, Stanica Žilina-Záriečie, Whitebox and others. In 2019, Engelstad updated and expanded her 2009 project *Voices From the Center*. Stemming from Engelstad's conversations with Central Europeans about life during and after communism, *Voices From the Center* includes an award winning, web site, exhibitions, public art, and public programs throughout Central Europe and the United States. In 2017, as an artist in residence at Dallas Museum of Art, Engelstad produced *Beyond Borders* where she researched and explored works of art from the Museum's permanent collection. Produced during the Trump administration's launch of Executive Order 13769 (also known as the Muslim ban or travel ban) and the building of a wall on the US Southern Border, Engelstad designed a set of cards and created a public tour that revealed unexpected relationships between works of art from various cultures and time periods, hi-lighting the movement of and connections between people throughout history. Engelstad's 2015 project, produced for the AURORA Biennale with Crow Museum of Asian Art, *Darkness Descends Slowly; Light Wraps Itself Around Us (Heaven is Now)* was a response to the tremendous outward expression of energy and sound at Aurora. Throughout the 12-hour light, sound and video festival, hundreds of people created prayer flags and sat together in silence or meditation in a space Engelstad designed on the sidewalk and street fronting the Crow Museum.

Engelstad is the Founding Director of Make Art with Purpose (MAP), an organization that produces collaborative artist led projects that address social and environmental concerns. MAP projects include communities as partners in the production of the work, directly engage the audience to participate beyond the role of passive observer and ignite creative collaboration from museums, schools, government, business, NGOs and other partners. Recent MAP projects include *AMPLIFY: Leveraging the Power of Art and Design to Advance the Front Lines of Social Justice* (2018). Designed and organized by Engelstad and Mark Randall/Worldstudio, thought-provoking posters hi-lighting and promoting the work of NYC non-profits working in social and environmental justice were installed throughout lower Manhattan and Harlem. Each poster. The project included an exhibition at Museum of Arts and Design, performances in partnership with Harlem Stage, and arts education workshops in schools and at MAD on arts and social justice.

Engelstad has contributed essays to numerous publications including, *Exploring New Horizons* (Vernon Press, 2019), Wilmington, Delaware, 2019 ; *Urban Public Art: Community Involvement and Civic Engagement* (Rowan & Littlefield, 2016); ARTMargins, Dallas Morning News; On the Issues; In These Times; and eutopia. Her podcast, MAP Radio Hour, conversations at the intersection of art, design, science, politics and justice is hosted by Creative Disturbance and ARTECA/MIT. Her work has been featured in numerous media outlets, including Art News, Chicago Tribune, Communication Arts, Dallas Morning News, Design Observer, Flash Art, Heraldo de Aragón, I.D. magazine, Interview, Los Angeles Times, Metropolis, New York Times, NPR, Print Magazine and The Atlantic.

She has taught and lectured at universities throughout North America and Europe and in 2006 she was a Fulbright Scholar at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. A member of the Social Practice Art Research Center at University of California, Santa Cruz, Engelstad has an MFA in Photography from a joint program between New York University and International Center of Photography and BAs in Political Science and English from University of Washington, Seattle (Dean's List).