

CONTACT:
Jennifer Tran, PIDC
Director, Navy Yard Marketing & Communications
(215) 218-2854
jtran@PIDCphila.com

Group X
Installation Organizers & Curators, *anonymous*
therealgroupx@gmail.com



MYSTERIOUS OCCURRENCE DELIVERS SIX NEW WORKS OF PUBLIC ART TO THE PHILADELPHIA NAVY YARD

Tweet this: The @NavyYardPhila observes that six new temporary works of public art have appeared without an apparent cause - in a case some are referencing to as M.I.M.O.S.A: www.navyyard.org/mimosa #MIMOSAnavyard

PHILADELPHIA – September 15, 2020 – Group X and the Philadelphia Navy Yard announce its latest secret project, *Mystery Island and the Marvelous Occurrence of Spontaneous Art (code name: M.I.M.O.S.A.)*, a collection of six new temporary works of public art that play with the built environment of Philadelphia’s former League Island. *Is a wall just a wall? Is a street just*

a street? Is a “yard” just an island? The Navy Yard invites viewers to discover *M.I.M.O.S.A.*: six new temporary public art installations created by seven different local and international artists! The artworks appeared on September 15 at locations across the Navy Yard’s 1,200-acre campus and are now on view today through November 2, 2020. The Navy Yard is open daily to the public from sunrise to sunset.

Following the popular [Sea Monsters HERE](#) inflatable art installation with artists Filthy Luker and Pedro Estrellas in 2018 and the interactive tape sculpture [Tape Philadelphia: Enter the Cocoon](#) with experimental European arts collective Numen/For Use in 2019, *M.I.M.O.S.A.* is the third collaborative public art partnership between **Group X**, a group of Philadelphia-based artists, curators, and organizers whose members are anonymous, and the **Navy Yard**, the “coolest shipyard in America” and leading model for repurposed military base where 15,000 employees work at 170 companies, surrounded by iconic parks, Complete Streets, and a riverfront greenway. But unlike the previously planned projects, *M.I.M.O.S.A.*.... just appeared: very 2020 of it.

Yes, Group X and the Navy Yard are writing this announcement and organizing this odd situation into a project because it feels like we should and why not, but truthfully we only know as much about *M.I.M.O.S.A.* as what we learned in the past few days from a Reddit thread about environmentally friendly shipping materials. You can find a screenshot of that now deleted post [here](#). As you’ll see, it appears the works of spontaneous art are from seven acclaimed local and international artists: Liesbet Bussche, DAKU, Justin Favela, Kid Hazo with South Fellini, Reed Bmore, and Raquel Rodrigo. As of the writing of this announcement it’s unclear if the artists even know their work is here, but we’re DM-ing them now.

In the subsequent days from the discovery of that Reddit post, signs appeared next to the new artworks that offered more information on the occurrences themselves. Liesbet Bussche’s “Urban Jewelry / Rusty Love”, we learned, references the history of the naval shipyard and to the many Marines and Sailors who kissed their partner goodbye on the quay before boarding for their journey. DAKU’s “Ray of Hope” reshapes sunlight into 25 different languages to send one simple yet powerful message. And the hidden work from Philly’s own Kid Hazo and South Fellini hopes to awaken our inner child. You can find more information on all the artworks and their locations at www.navyyard.org/mimosa.

The Navy Yard and Group X welcome visitors of all abilities to explore *M.I.M.O.S.A.* to help us figure this all out - or at the very least have a nice day enjoying history, architecture, and public art. The six artworks are outdoors and can be viewed from a sidewalk/walkway which are accessible by wheelchair. The Navy Yard is open to the public from sunrise to sunset and is accessible via car, bike, [Indego bikeshare](#), on foot, and [Navy Yard Transit](#).

A few guidelines for visiting the Navy Yard in 2020:

1. Please wear a face covering or mask.
2. Maintain six feet of distance from other visitors you may come across.
3. Visit in the smallest groups possible.
4. Unlike last year, none of these installations are interactive, so please do not touch any of the artworks.
5. Let us know if you have any ideas about how *M.I.M.O.S.A.* got here! @NavyYardPhila @GroupX #MIMOSAnavyyard

High-resolution images are available [HERE](#). For media requests, please contact Jennifer Tran at jtran@PIDCphila.com.

About the Artists

Liesbet Bussche

Liesbet's practice is based on the interplay between jewelry, the city and the intimate and public nature of adornment. This approach results, amongst other things, in 'Urban Jewelry', or installations in which she creates disproportionately large public jewels in urban environments.

<https://www.liesbetbussche.com/>

DAKU

DAKU is India's most prominent anonymous street artist. DAKU leverages the sun's shadow-casting power to create temporary installations. A street-long awning holds up stenciled adages that project shadows forming a tapestry of words on the ground: "Things take time; time is a great teacher; time heals all wounds; lost time is never found again."

<https://www.instagram.com/daku156/>

Justin Favela

Justin Favela is a mixed-media artist who does large-scale installation sculptures in the piñata style or medium. His work references pop culture, art history, society, cultural commentary, and his own Guatemala-Mexican-American heritage that is rooted in growing up in Las Vegas, Nevada. His works often celebrate his identity as a queer person of color raised in the Southwest United States while challenging Latinidad cultural appropriation.

<http://justinfavela.com/>

Kid Hazo

Kid Hazo is a Philadelphia-based street artist out to catch a few smirks and smiles by creating pieces that parody the heart of Philly culture and venues around the city. His lighthearted props and sculptures are interjected into the urban environment in attempts to brighten up someone's day and add a layer of comic relief on the streets.

<https://www.kidhazo.com/>

Reed Bmore

Reed is a Baltimore-based street artist who creates wire art installations that seamlessly fit in with their surroundings but stands out to those looking for them. The themes of Reed's works are generally whimsical and light-hearted.

<https://www.instagram.com/reedbmoreart/>

Raquel Rodrigo

Raquel is a cross-stitch street artist from Spain who adds her own colorful touch to the streets by turning them into beautifully eye-catching floral cross-stitch installations.

<http://arquicostura.com/>

South Fellini

Tony Trov and Johnny Zito, two friends from South Philly, first started collaborating while attending Temple University where they made tee shirts to fund for their short films and rock operas. In 2008, they created Harvey Award nominated horror comics *Black Cherry Bombshells* and *LaMorte Sisters for DC Entertainment*. Trov and Zito went on to win the 2011 "Best Comic Book Creator" at the Philadelphia Geek Award for their RED5 mini-series, *Moon Girl*, and the Image Comics' graphic novel *DOGS of Mars*. In 2009, the duo began creating athletic tee shirt parodies for Cheesesteaktees while they wrote, produced and directed their first feature film,

Alpha Girls: A Satanic Sorority Slasher. The film gained attention when Trov and Zito set out on a 20 city tour of the film which secured distribution through Gravitass Ventures. This led to their second feature film, *American Exorcist*, a tribute to the Italian Horror genre starring Bill Moseley and Falon Joslyn was released on Blu-Ray, DVD and VOD. In 2016 Trov and Zito won the Philadelphia Geek Award for "Makers of The Year" after opening their first brick and mortar store on East Passyunk Avenue in South Philadelphia. From there they create and sell apparel for the Philadelphia lifestyle which *Philadelphia Magazine* named the city's best in 2018.

<http://southfellini.com/>

About Group X

"We are the next generation of arts leaders in Philadelphia. We are an anonymous group of local artists, curators, and organizers. Together, we aim to innovate, inspire, and push the boundaries of what public art in Philadelphia can be."

<https://www.instagram.com/groupxofficial/>

About the Navy Yard

Since acquiring the 1,200-acre former naval shipyard from the federal government in 2000, [PIDC, Philadelphia's public-private economic development corporation](#) and master developer of the Philadelphia Navy Yard, has led the planning, development, and operation of the Navy Yard. PIDC's mission—to spur investment, support business growth, and foster developments that create jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, and drive growth to every corner of Philadelphia—strongly informs the strategy for the Navy Yard, which focuses on creating an environment that drives employment, innovation, and production.

POLITICO has called the Navy Yard "the coolest shipyard in America" and many industry observers, including the Urban Land Institute, have recognized the community as a leading model for repurposing military and industrial assets for a diversified modern economy. Home to reimagined shipbuilding facilities as well as new high-performance and energy-efficient construction, the Navy Yard has a variety of flexible buildings with different heights, vintages, and floorplates, powered by a nationally-recognized microgrid and oriented around iconic parks, Complete Streets, and a riverfront greenway.

Today, the Navy Yard is an expanding community of 15,000 employees and 170 employers who occupy 7.5 million square feet of facilities across a mix of property types, including office, retail,

industrial, R&D, and institutional. In recent years, the Navy Yard's total employment has steadily expanded by approximately 1,000 new employees per year and will support an additional 10 million square feet of commercial and residential development at full buildout.

<https://www.navyyard.org/>

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