

MapHook

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MapHook Speaks with Artist Tiffaney Bishop!

By Lisa Kline
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Last week, we told you about how MapHook and (e)merge have partnered together to create the Mapping Project. This week, we will be taking a closer look at and hearing from an artist who has already put herself on the Mapping Project map: Ms. Tiffaney Bishop and the tiffaney bishop COLLECTIVE (tbC).

The tbC is an artist-run initiative that provides young people with a funded working studio environment where they can locate their arts practices and begin to launch their careers. According to their website, over 40 young resident artists are currently involved in this funded studio program that explores the notion of what art itself is, where it is made, and who can make it.



The tbC will also be at the (e)merge Art Fair this year. tbC's selected work for this fair is called "The Art of Conversation," and its primary goal is to engage people in the social life of art. "The Art of Conversation" invites a gallery of viewers to participate in interactive, two-way conversations. Viewers simply scan a QR code (available below) with a free QR code reader on their smartphones, and then they can join a conversation!



scan to play

"The collaborative, relational, littoral, dialogical, and discursive model of practice behind 'The Art of Conversation' breaks down the conventional distinction between artist, art work, and audience (participant), blurring authorship and creating a relationship that allows the non-artist or participant to 'speak back' to the artist and in which this reply becomes part of the work" explains Ms. Bishop.

With tbC's focus on re-defining community and promoting conversation in new ways, it should come as no surprise that Ms. Bishop was one of the first to begin using the (e)merge Mapping

Project. “The (e)merge Mapping Project instantly engaged me,” says Ms. Bishop. “I quickly logged in to check it out and set up my pin. I posted it on my Facebook page, and now my art colleagues are logging on.”

What value is there in projects like “The Mapping Project?” Ms. Bishop has this to say: “Anything that connects artists across distances/mediums/practices is a valuable tool, and I am impressed with how the (e)merge Art Fair and MapHook have set up such an opportunity for positive fellowship between artists all over the world.”

Like tbC’s “The Art of Conversation,” the MapHook and (e)merge Mapping Project also seeks to provide new ways to engage people in conversation. Moreover, the Mapping Project attempts to re-define the idea of community by creating a virtual community of artists, art enthusiasts, galleries, and collectors. The Mapping Project also seeks to bridge the gap between the worlds of technology and the arts – two communities that often can seem to be pitted against one another. Ms. Bishop explains that even within her COLLECTIVE, where the artists are young people who might be more open to exploring technology, many of the members are traditional drawers, painters, photographers, sculptors, writers, etc., and even they may be new to engaging with technology artistically.

“Our audiences are less likely to have encountered artistic representations of or engagements with technology,” says Ms. Bishop. “But, we find that because our technological artworks are socially driven and engage audiences in the ‘social life of art,’ they translate well and draw audiences in. Like MapHook, tbC is about bridging divides: the divide between traditional and new media; the divide between younger and older generations; the divide between contemporary and community art; and the divide between socially engaged art practices and artistic autonomy.”

Take a closer look at the tiffany bishop COLLECTIVE by visiting her website at www.tiffanybishopcollective.com

And, you can see the tbC’s “The Art of Conversation” in person at the (e)merge Art Fair from October 3–6. Read more about the fair here: <http://www.emergeartfair.com/> Are you an artist, collector, or enthusiast? Why not take part in the MapHook and (e)merge Mapping Project. Put yourself on the map today: <http://www.emergeartfair.com/map/>

