



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GREENHILL ANNOUNCES *SHIFT HAPPENS*
EXHIBITION AND INSTALLATIONS
by HEATHER GORDON
March 12 – June 26, 2021**

(GREENSBORO, NC) February 11, 2021. Greenhill Center for North Carolina Art presents a compelling series of site-specific installations in tape and video, luminous abstract paintings and drawings, as well as participatory projects by Knightdale artist Heather Gordon. Visitor responses and collaboration will inform the creation of dynamic new works inside and outside the Gallery. *SHIFT HAPPENS* expands Greenhill's public art initiative "One Love Response" that was created by Gordon and inspired by the "One Love" street mural on Greensboro's North Davie Street.

"*SHIFT HAPPENS* explores disruptive cultural and political currents that challenge us all," notes Barbara Richter, Greenhill's Executive Director. "At a time of global unrest and isolation, the exhibition creates space for conversation. Immersive, evolving installations encourage us to come together and consider: Where are the truths we yearn to reveal?"

In *SHIFT HAPPENS*, Gordon examines language phrases surrounding COVID-19 reporting. The titles of many of Gordon's works are the basis for their design. Phrases like "essential worker" are translated by the artist into numbers and then origami shapes to make "maps" that in turn become paintings or tape installations.

"Being an artist now has some special concerns. Our forms will need to be reconsidered," explains Gordon. When asked whether she was a "head" painter or a "heart" painter, Gordon responded that she saw herself as both. A video entitled, "My Whole Soul is in This" projects a winter sky in the gallery. Another projection uses American sign language to greet visitors when they enter the GreenHill Center. The moving images underline Gordon's central themes of language analysis, cultural events, and the packaging of news.

The centerpiece of GreenHill's exhibition is a 96-foot-long tape installation entitled "No Justice No Peace" designed for the downtown gallery space. GreenHill audiences will experience the evolution of "No Justice No Peace" through online open studios, creating new forms of visitor engagement. The public is also invited to answer the question, "How do you feel?". Phrases submitted will inform works that Gordon exhibits on moveable walls in the gallery. Another participatory presentation is "The Handshake Project", which invites household and family members (who can safely touch) to create a short video shaking hands. Assistance and a video booth created for this purpose are provided in the gallery. Remote entries are also welcome by email.

Curator Edie Carpenter notes: "Gordon's data-driven approach and use of materials such as graph paper reflect her desire to grapple with large quantities of information to elaborate visual environments that tell stories. Gordon's interest in how visitors respond to her work separates her from the conceptual approaches of pioneers of the genre such as Sol Lewitt, with whom her elegant wall drawings using parallel lines have been compared."

Gordon shared that new paintings and “Drawings from the Time of Covid” combine representation and plotting of text, translated from binary code. Large-scale paintings such as “Happy Talk” and “Protest” painted in fluorescent red and pink and vivid purple simultaneously attract and overwhelm the eye. According to Gordon, these works “re-frame information in bright, sparkling packages so vital truths are hidden.” The questions Gordon raises in *SHIFT HAPPENS* around the permeability of numbers and language as repositories of truth are timely, and she notes: “The shift is on, in all areas of our lives. We all feel it.”

GreenHill’s Edie Carpenter concludes “Gordon’s seemingly empirical approach channels tensions between our understanding of objective facts and our subjective response to information. The results are works of resounding impact and spaces for visitors to reflect and respond.”

A comprehensive digital catalog for *SHIFT HAPPENS* will complement in-person visits to the Gallery. Frequent updates on public art initiatives and visitor engagement opportunities will be posted at GreenHillINC.org. Gordon’s paintings and drawings on view at GreenHill are available for purchase.

SHIFT HAPPENS is supported by Jane and Richard Levy, Founding Members of the Women's Gateway Circle, and Mercedes Benz of Greensboro.

Programs

SHIFT HAPPENS | March 12 - June 26, 2021

Artist Open Studio Hours | March 4-6, 2021 | 1-2 PM

During open studio hours, Heather Gordon will be available online to answer questions and share progress on installations - as she is constructing them - at GreenHill. Go to GreenHillINC.org for Zoom registration details.

The Handshake Project | March 12-June 26, 2021 | Ongoing

The Handshake Project invites people to submit video clips of themselves engaged in a handshake. The evolving video compilation will capture a community of handshake responses.

A handshake is an agreement.

A handshake is both a greeting and a farewell.

A handshake is weapons-free.

What does a handshake mean to you?

Participants are encouraged to email a video file link to Heather Gordon: heatgord@fastmail.com and include names of people whose hands are part of the submission. GreenHill will also provide a video booth on site and assist visitors with video-making.

Visit: <http://heathergordon.transition-project.com/the-handshake-project/> for details.



How Do You Feel? | Tape installations | May 12-18 and June 9-15, 2021

Members of the public are invited to respond to the simple question, "How Do you Feel?" in 130 characters or less. Responses will be translated by Heather Gordon into folding pattern tape drawings she will install on 71 x 49 inch walls in the gallery.

About Heather Gordon

Born in 1967, Heather Gordon is the daughter of an accountant and engineer. She received her B.F.A. from the University of Florida in 1990 and her M.F.A from New Mexico State University in 1995. She lives and works in Knightdale, NC. Her recent installation work titled "Cinnabar" was included in the exhibition "You Are Here: Light, Color and Sound Experiences" at the North Carolina Museum of Art. In addition, collaborative projects with choreographer Justin Tornow include "Penumbra" as part of Gordon's exhibition at CAM Raleigh titled "And Then the Sun Swallowed Me", "Echo" at 21C, and "SHOW" at The Durham Fruit. In 2014, Gordon received a North Carolina Artist Fellowship. She has been a full-time artist since 2015.

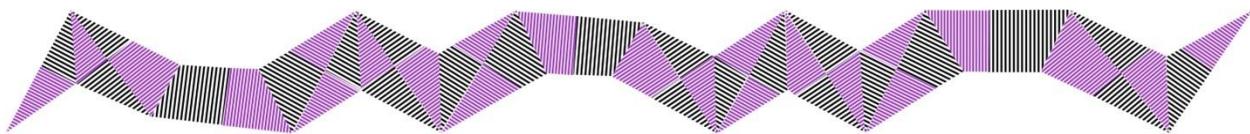
About GreenHill

Located in downtown Greensboro, GreenHill comprises 5000 square feet of contemporary art galleries, a shop, and hands-on art studios for families and adults. GreenHill engages a broad community of artists, adults and children through dynamic statewide exhibitions and educational programs while providing a platform for exploration and investment in art. As a gateway to North Carolina's creative community, GreenHill is the only organization dedicated exclusively to presenting and promoting the contemporary visual art and artists of NC. For more information and to see GreenHill's Telly Award winning film visit www.greenhillnc.org.

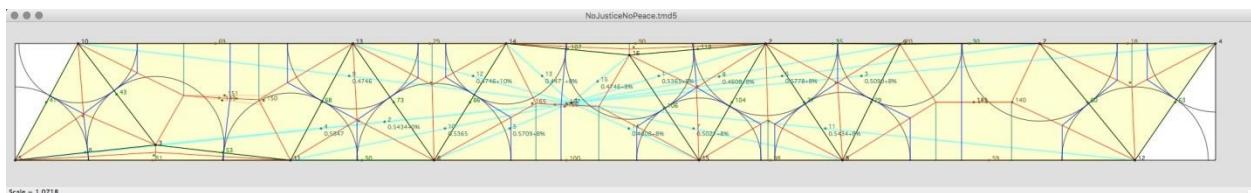
PRESS IMAGES



Heather Gordon, photo credit: Olly Yung, courtesy of Matrons and Mistresses

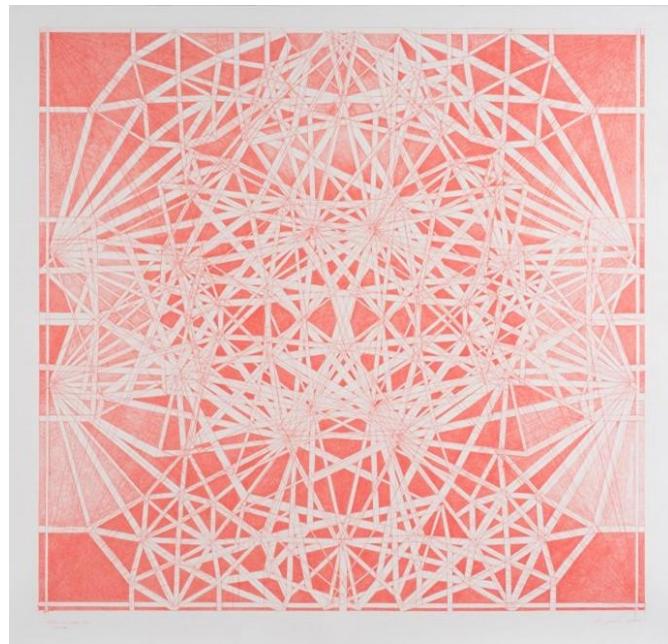


Heather Gordon, No Justice No Peace, 2021, site-specific tape installation, 96'

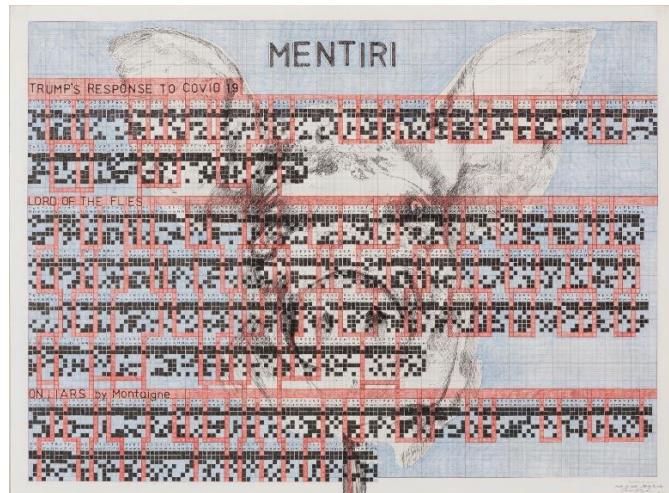




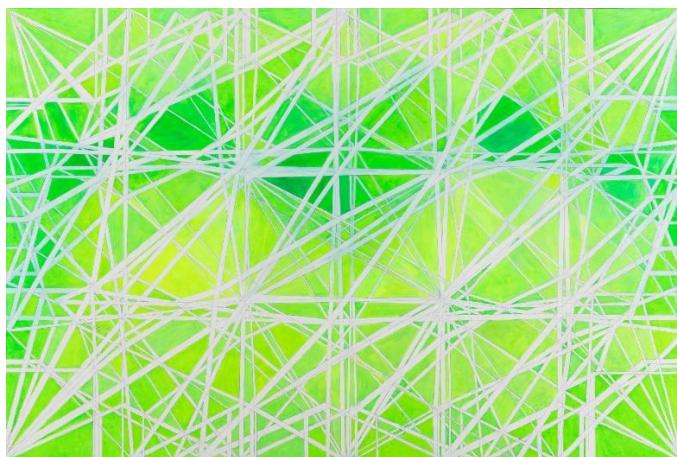
Heather Gordon, Happy Talk, 2020, oil on canvas, 48x72"



Heather Gordon, Structure for a Sisyphus Stone, 2018, colored pencil on Yupo, 60x60"



Heather Gordon, *Mentiri*, 2020, ink and pencil on graph paper, 22x30"



Heather Gordon, *Essential Worker*, 2021, oil on canvas, 48x72"



Heather Gordon, *Protest*, 2021, oil on canvas, 48x72"



Heather Gordon, Unprecedented, 2020, graphite on Yupo, 24x24"