

LIMINAL GROUND: A Social Sculpture

Project is a site-specific installation for public exhibition, contextually relevant to the neighborhood community of central Phoenix. I am proposing a 16 ft wide and 50 ft long “line,” varying from a quarter inch to 3 inches in height, that gradually changes in substance and color from yellow (cornmeal) to white (flour). Cornmeal is flour ground from dried maize or American corn. Cornmeal and flour speak to the original function of the site; I’m repurposing the warehouse that stored grain, and I am introducing the project’s materials (indigenous staple foods from both sides of the border) into urban context. The project references desert landscapes, topography, the border and 16 foot wall between Arizona and Mexico. Formally I’m striving for something at once simple, open and beautiful. Neighborhood Ministries, a Christian organization and advocate for Latino rights and immigration concerns owns the space. As this project evokes the Arizona-Mexico border it raises questions of inclusiveness and tolerance. I intend the installation to function as “social space”, hospitable to dialogue concerning human and civil rights. The exhibition will combined a panel discussion made up of a pastor, politician, theologian and artist, with a liturgically structured evening on the theme of bearing witness. This event would be a space for testimonies from the community, as well as those outside, to tell stories related to the idea/experience of the *liminal*.

Process

Rather than myself (an artist from outside the community) making something for the neighborhood community and cultural context of Phoenix, I envision collaboration to be an integral part of the installation. The design and execution of the physical project is intentionally simple, in order to work with a handful of folks of different ages and skill in the installation and de-installation. The materials (cornmeal and flour) would be recycled into agricultural contexts (feed for pigs and chickens) as well as recycled into future art projects. Please note that I am excited to document my process and engage in discussion through the web blog on the Guildworks website.

Contextual Detailed Explanation

How my project serves the mission and value of Logos divinity Guildworks: I am an artist of Christian faith-committed to engaging in contemporary art practice. I received a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art and an MLS in Sustainable Communities. After serving as an artist-in-residence at an Eastern Orthodox monastic community in rural northern New Mexico, I worked on a collection of writings in a fellowship at the Earlham School of Religion, completing an MFA at Azusa Pacific University. My formative training is in sculpture and aesthetic/theological issues related to the body. My present practice makes use of multiple media in interdisciplinary applications, placing images, objects, artifacts and words into dialog intended to grapple with notions of the sacred. My project serves the mission and value of LOGOS *divinity* Guildworks as a practice rooted in lived faith; I seek to generate art that has “resonance, challenge, witness--and refuses to break down into any sort of easy category.” I wish to negotiate a way path for twenty-first century political reality and Christian faith and practice. I am increasingly realizing this is a transcultural effort.

How my project serves the mission and value of the Gimilus Chassidum Fellowship: This *liminal* border-related project has a commitment to human and civil rights and is an honest and responsible effort at cross-community bridge-building. The proposed panel discussion and liturgically structured bearing witness event, in conjunction with the art installation, is a cross-cultural collaboration that speaks to intersections cross-denominationally (protestant/catholic), cross-community

(secular/sacred, Latino/Caucasian, art/non-art). The *Liminal Ground* installation will coalesce spiritually and aesthetically, intentionally exploring interfaith relationships and inter-religious dialogue. As a contemporary art installation, *Liminal Ground A Social Sculpture* is directly contextually and aesthetically relevant to Christian faith, firmly rooted in Abrahamic customs of kinship and wider hospitality. I feel privileged the *Gimilus Chassidim Fellowship* might enable this project; thank you for considering *Liminal Ground A Social Sculpture*.

