

## The Impact of Mural Art

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### Introduction/Background

- Public art has long been a powerful force in shaping the identity of communities. It has the power to transform public spaces, telling stories that resonate with communities and spark conversation.
- Art in Public Places: Creating Installation Art and Murals in Tallahassee** seeks to highlight the significance of murals as a transformative medium by creating, documenting, and showcasing the process of creating and exhibiting original works by Hannah Keats.
- Through digital fabrication, painting, and layered assembly techniques, this immersive exposition invites visitors to explore the ways in which public art shapes our environment, fosters cultural identity, and engages the imagination.
- Murals have historically served as visual narratives, reflecting the struggles, aspirations, and stories of the people who create and engage with them. From political activism to personal expression, mural art transcends aesthetic value, functioning as both a mirror and a catalyst for social change.
- Despite their importance, murals are often fleeting, vulnerable to time, redevelopment, and neglect.
- By incorporating contemporary techniques such as laser-cut acrylic, CNC-machined panels, and digital prints, this exhibition expands the traditional boundaries of mural-making, creating works that merge handcrafted and technologically-driven processes.
- Hannah Keats' work blends striking visuals with deep storytelling, capturing themes that reflect both personal and collective narratives. The combination of bold colors, layered textures, and immersive compositions reimagines how murals engage their surroundings.
- By engaging with artists, community members, and local institutions, this project seeks to illuminate the role of mural art in shaping urban environments and fostering communal identity.
- Each aspect of this exhibition serves as a window into the dynamic relationship between art and its surroundings, highlighting how murals can serve as landmarks of creativity and connection. Visitors are invited to explore the evolving nature of murals, considering how public art can serve as both a landmark of creativity and a lasting force in contemporary culture.

### Acknowledgements:

- This project wouldn't have been possible without Hannah Keats' incredible creative vision, project, and dedication to their work. I'm extremely grateful to have been a small part of this exhibition; and I'm incredibly excited to see what they will create next.
- I also want to thank my two UROP Mentors, Sofia Nuonno and Cameron Glymph for their amazing guidance, helpful lessons, and continued support throughout the entire project.



"Rhizome" by Hannah Keats.  
Installed at Florida State University,  
Carnagi Arts Building, October 2024



### Methodology

- The creation and mounting of Rhizome as an installation follows a structured approach, ensuring a streamlined and effective execution of the artistic vision. The process included three main steps: digital fabrication, painting, and assembly.
- Each structure began with the digital fabrication phase, where elements of the artwork were designed and produced using a combination of laser-cut acrylic, CNC-machined wood panels, and digital prints.
- These components feature layered textures, organic forms, and bold patterns, reinforcing the mural's dimensionality. For painting, the installation's base structure was coated in a vibrant pink to establish a striking visual foundation.
- A combination of tempera and acrylic paint was used on both the mural surface and individual pieces, ensuring cohesion across all elements. Velvet flocking was also applied to select areas, enhancing the textural contrast and depth of the work.
- The assembly phase involved gluing the digitally fabricated elements onto the prepared surfaces. Wood glue was used for securing the pieces, ensuring durability.
- Beyond the creative process, social media materials were developed to effectively promote the exhibition. High-quality images, artist statements, and exhibition details were formatted for multiple platforms, including Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. A promotional timeline was implemented to ensure consistent outreach leading up to the exhibition's launch.

### Final Exhibition/Conclusion:

- The final exhibition showcases Rhizome, an installation that expands on the impact of mural art by blending digital fabrication with traditional painting techniques.
- Installed at Florida State University's Carnaghi Arts Building in October 2024, the piece transforms space through layered textures, bold forms, and an immersive composition that reimagines how murals engage their surroundings.
- By integrating digital prints, laser-cut acrylic, and hand-painted elements on custom CNC-machined panels, Rhizome bridges contemporary fabrication with the essence of mural-making.
- This project reinforces the role of murals as more than static visuals—they are dynamic interventions that shape public discourse and redefine spatial relationships.
- The exhibition ultimately highlights how murals, whether digital or hand-painted, remain powerful tools for storytelling, place-making, and community engagement.

### References:

- Grodach, Carl. "Art Spaces, Public Space, and the Link to Community Development." *Community Development Journal*, vol. 45, no. 4, 29 Apr. 2009, pp. 474–493, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cdj/bsp018>.