



Linktree Community

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Commencement

An immersive, in person art exhibition. Part 3/3 of Undergrad: A series on ending well.

Truly moving, impactful art is meant to be experienced— not limited to squares, and scrolling, and handheld screens.

Commencement was a multidisciplinary event at the Grotto Commons during the kickoff of York Arts Week. The main show was an immersive art installation produced by Boom Creative Design and O&W Co. ft. photos produced by Thesis that were projected onto silk screens. The room was swallowed up in cave like blackness with toys and props suspended from the ceiling thanks to the Dreamwrights props closet.

The full experience was a 10 minute show and while the slides were running, Aortic Valve added distortions, flickers, and textures to increase tension, while Public Disco Porch played LIVE music composed exclusively for this event.

AN ART EXHIBITION BY OLDER & WISER CO.



**THIS EXHIBIT ILLUMINATES THE
INTERNAL STRUGGLE &
RECONCILIATION BETWEEN
PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE SELF**

When we are young, we wish to be grown up, to have adventures, and to live out possibilities we imagine might appear with a snap of our fingers.

As adults, we often romanticize childhood as an existence with less worries, concerns, and responsibilities. There is always a want for what we don't have,

WRITTEN & PRODUCED BY

"THESIS"

A Summer Program hosted by O&W Co. designed to open up the world of creative direction, concept design, and production skills through editorial photography.

2023 participants co-designed the costumes, set, storyline, execution, and supporting ideation of what you are about to witness.

an inclination that we are on the precipice of happiness, and this exhibit begs the question-- what are we really looking for? What would happen if we could reconcile all versions of ourselves here, now, in the only tangible existence... the present.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO EXPERIENCE THE EXHIBIT FROM ANY POINT OF VIEW.
EXPLORATION IS ENCOURAGED AND MEANDERERS WELCOME.

the efforts of connecting via social media— or so I thought, but maybe it was an illusion waiting to be challenged.

There's a lot of things I learned from Tom though, one of them being, "The easy way to do something has already been done— why do it again?"



Tom Ryan aka My Sensei 🙏

In the thick of Undergrad I couldn't stop thinking about that conversation from months before. That seed planted had grown into something big...

I highly doubt I'm the only one who felt betrayed by a platform that offered so much potential and then, in the end, seemed to take advantage of artists.



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Dramatic, I know... But I'm an ✨ artist ✨ so I get a free pass

Artists learn a certain type of surrender to the craft, and in my surrender, I had allowed my own heart to be examined and exposed. I wanted to look at it closely and watch what could come forth from this beating pulsing muscle, and there is and will always be in me a desire to hold up another's next to mine, to see if we were in fact beating in tune with each other.

I felt it at Commencement...

I felt the anticipation, the tension, the wonder or being transported into a parallel universe WITH people. We took groups of 20 back to back through the exhibit for an hour and a half. Each time I walked into the waiting area, it was filled to the brim with bewildered people who had no idea what to expect and were eager to *see* what they were hearing about.

Their experiences were all so different—

- The screens looked like they were *breathing...* like they were living beings singing with



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more like a womb. So disarming, and then, comforting.

- You're supposed to get something out of art... I got it.

This exhibition proved one thing for sure— People want to experience art. Not just view it.

And look, I get it... it's daunting to put something together like this... It took **20 hours alone just to install the exhibit**, not including the design, photoshoot, editing, sourcing, communications, finding sponsors etc.

But it's worth it. And it's important. And something tells me that even though I'm desperate for a breather, I'm not gonna be able to shake this thought... we need more art in person.

We need more people making real art. Not just content, or something that sells, but something they put their soul into that invites others to bear theirs as well.

Feel the Commencement Vibes

Commencement B-Roll





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And Supported By



BOOM Creative LLC, Public Discernment, Aortic Valve, Silo Studios, Dreamwrights Center for the Community Arts, The Grotto Community Center, Rekindle Retreats, York 365, Central PA Film Commission, The Appell Center for the Performing Arts