



JESSICA WITTE:

Seed *the* Change

Jessica Witte's **Seed the Change** was a day-long collaborative drawing event held June 5, 2016 on the Riverfront at the St. Louis Arch. Using black sunflower seeds, safflower and millet, the unforgettable "seed drawing" spanned 420 feet on the sidewalk along Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard centered parallel to the Arch. The project was sponsored by Critical Mass for the Visual Arts, a local nonprofit organization, as part of a new temporary public art initiative called the Public Works Project; and sponsored by the William E. Weiss Foundation.

August 22, 2020 *thru* February 7, 2021 | Lambert Gallery



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ABOUT THE EXHIBIT:

This **Jessica Witte: Seed the Change** exhibition includes planning sketches, seed samples, and more than 30 photographs from the event telling the story of the project- including some special additions of passersby. Views from the ground, from the stairs, and the Arch itself help demonstrate scale of this massive art event.

Witte and her assistants outlined the underlying design of Missouri native plants. Visitors, invited to build the drawing, added their own embellishments with seed over the course of the day. The drawing morphed with the engagement of the audience, growing and changing. Time-lapse video of the artwork is available at jessicawitte.com.



WITTE'S GOAL:

“to highlight the city’s human potential; creating a welcoming space shaped by its people that embodies the beauty of labors of love, conversation and individual expression.”

Witte and Critical Mass for the Visual Arts invited local social service, cultural, and environmental organizations to host hands-on activities along the Riverfront. This festival atmosphere sparked discussion on how everyone plays a role in shaping our city. At the end of the event, the 3,000 lbs. of seed was swept up, re-bagged, and offered for visitors’ backyard bird feeders.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Jessica Witte is a nationally-exhibited, award-winning artist born in Omaha, Nebraska. She aims to capture the fleeting notion of time and celebrate acts of caretaking and collaboration in her art practice. In 2017, her Seed the Change public art project garnered national recognition from Americans for the Arts. Her ephemeral art projects have been featured online by Stylus (London), Chicago Art Magazine, and St. Louis Public Radio. In addition, her multi-media work has been included in more than 60 exhibitions at venues such as the Berkeley Art Center (California), the Textile Center (Minneapolis, Minnesota), and WomanMade Gallery and Beverly Art Center (Chicago, Illinois). She currently lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri.