

Title: Concrete Poetry, an outdoor installation at The Ivy Bookshop, Baltimore, MD
Exhibition: Homing Instinct: Art, sculpture, and film installation, celebrating 10 years of Earl's Place arts
Presented by The Pop-Up Museum at The Ivy
Opening reception: April 27, 2023 7pm
Concrete Poetry will be on display through May.

Artist: Julia Kim Smith

Description:

Concrete Poetry is an outdoor installation of 19 free-standing cast concrete letters spelling out "HOMELESS NOT HOPELESS" placed on a porcelain tile base. 19 additional concrete letters are heaped behind the standing letters.

Medium: Cast concrete letters, outdoor porcelain tile

Dimensions:

Cast concrete letter: 6 x 3" (height x depth), variable letter width (total of 38 letters)

Approximate length of "HOMELESS NOT HOPELESS": 10'

Outdoor porcelain tile base: 12' x 2' x 0.75" (length x width x height). Six, 2 x 2' outdoor porcelain tiles are placed flush to each other to form a 12 x 2' area upon which the concrete letters are placed.

Artist's statement:

Concrete Poetry posits that homelessness does not define a person; it is a state that one experiences. The cast concrete letters read "HOMELESS NOT HOPELESS" and can be moved and built upon. Inexpensive concrete was chosen as a medium for its durability and because it alludes to construction and building foundations.

Concrete Poetry is set in Clarendon, a slab serif with a bold, sturdy structure. It was created by Robert Besley for Fann-later Thorowgood and Co.-type founders (U.K.) in 1845 and exists today in modern iterations. Haas Clarendon was introduced as the U.S. National Park Service standard by Chermayeff and Geismar in 1975 and was in use on park signage until 2000.