

Wings of Everchange 易之翼

70 Mulberry Street Advisory Committee

Conceptual Design Presentation

NYC Percent for Art Program

Jennifer Wen Ma, Artist

Previous Artwork

Jennifer Wen Ma



NYC Percent for Art Program
Jennifer Wen Ma, Artist
Consultant / Sponsor / DDC / DCLA

70 Mulberry Street Reconstruction (70MULBREC)
January 16, 2024 | Conceptual Design Review
Public Design Commission

A Landscape of Metamorphosis: No End to End, 2022
MGM Cotai
Macau, China



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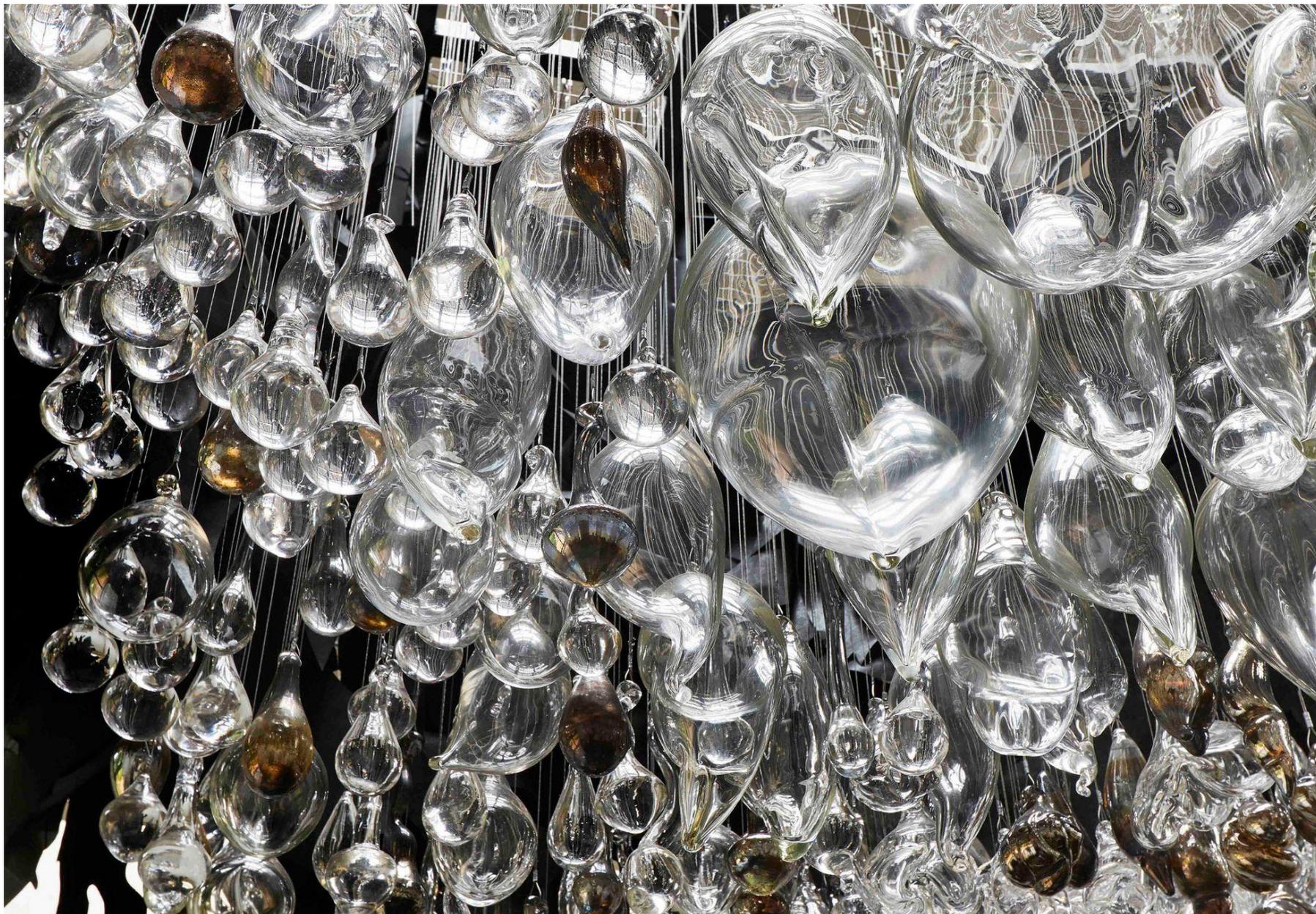
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Molar, 2016
Cass Sculpture Foundation
West Sussex, UK



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Eight Views of Paradise Interrupted: Eve At the Pond, 2019
Ink and pigment on acrylic panels



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Cry Joy Park – Fold, 2018
Tang Contemporary Art
Beijing, China



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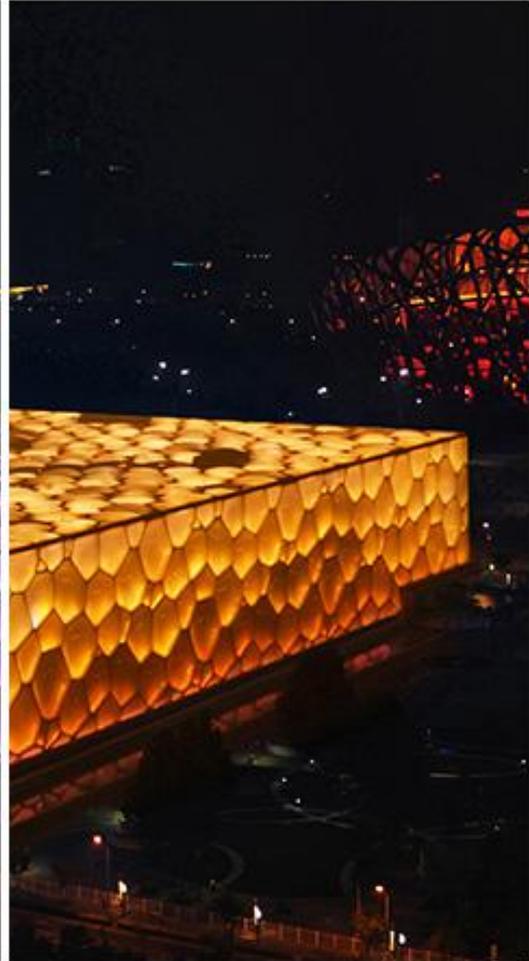
Cry Joy Park – Fold, 2018
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Paradise Interrupted, 2019
80-minutes installation opera
Conception, direction and visual design





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Nature and Man in Rhapsody of Light at the Water Cube, 2013
The Beijing National Aquatics Center (aka the "Water Cube")
Beijing, China

Percent for Art proposal

70 Mulberry Street Reconstruction



March 22, 2023 Charrette: Jennifer Wen Ma presented her approach of making public art to Core Review Group and Advisory Committee members.

Project Site

70 Mulberry Street Reconstruction

Community Center



- 1. Houston Street Community Center (Educational, Sport & Recreation)
- 2. Beacon Community Center (Educational)
- 3. AAFE Community Center (Educational)
- 4. 80 Pitt Street Community Center (Educational)
- 5. Community Center at Stuyvesant High School (Sport & Recreation)
- 6. Seward Park Community Center (Educational, Sport & Recreation)
- 7. Essex Crossing Community Center (Educational)
- 8. Manhattan Youth & Downtown (Educational, Sport & Recreation)
- 9. VNS Health Chinatown Community (Health & Recreation)
- 10. Manny Cantor Center (Educational, Sport (Indoor basketball) & Recreation)
- 11. New York Chinese Community Center (Cultural & Educational)



Mulberry Street



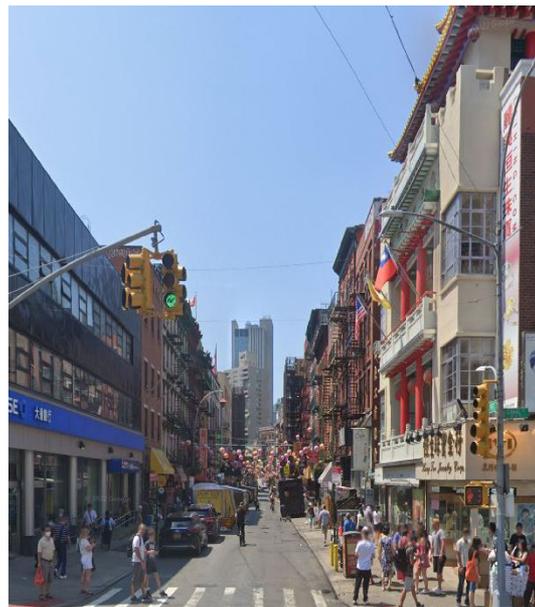
Bayard Street



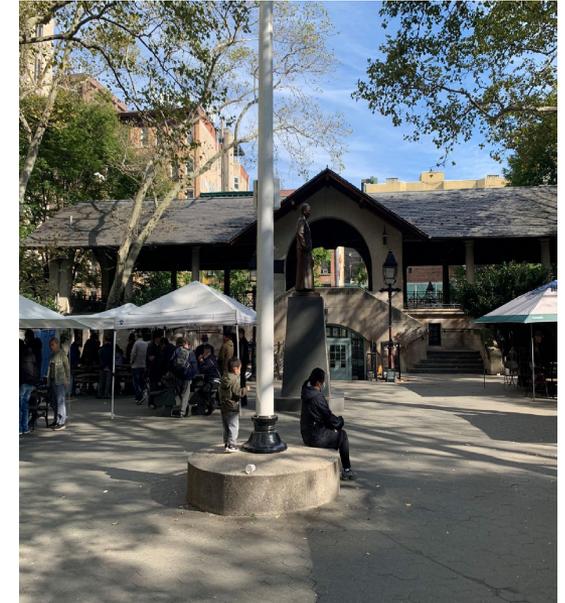
Neighborhood



A. Canal Street



B. Mott Street



C. Columbus Park

Current Condition

VIEWED FROM COLUMBUS PARK – SOUTH WEST
CORNER



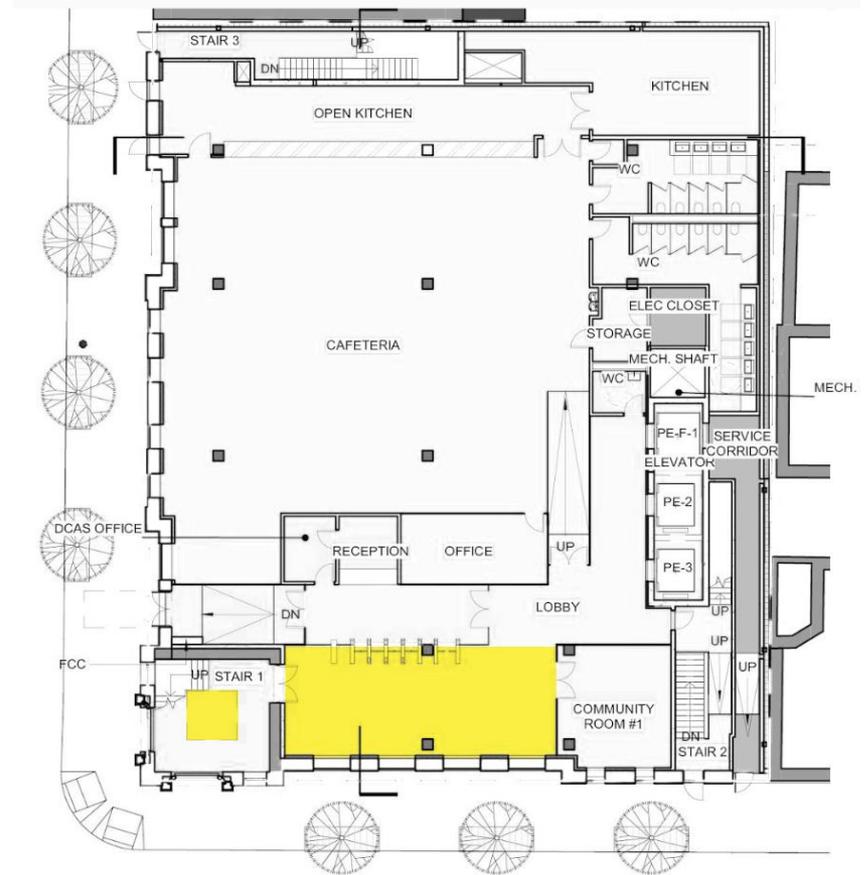
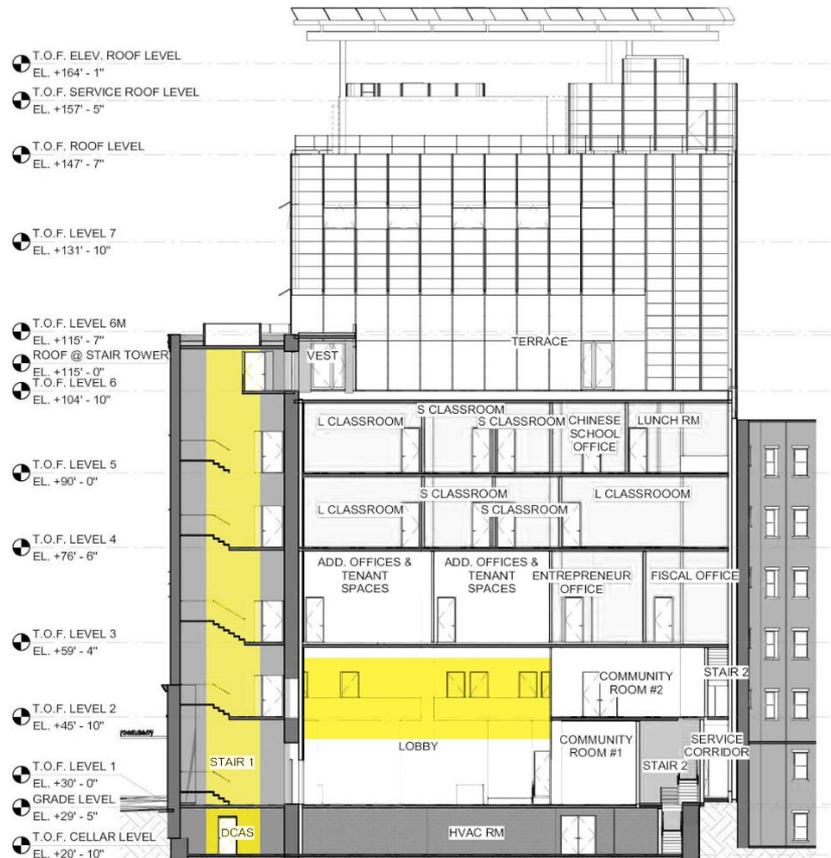
Site Render

Building serving five tenants:

- Chen Dance Center (CDC)
- Chinatown Manpower (CMP)
- Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)
- Museum of Chinese in America (MoCA)
- United East Athletics Association (UEAA)



Location Of Artwork Proposed Plan

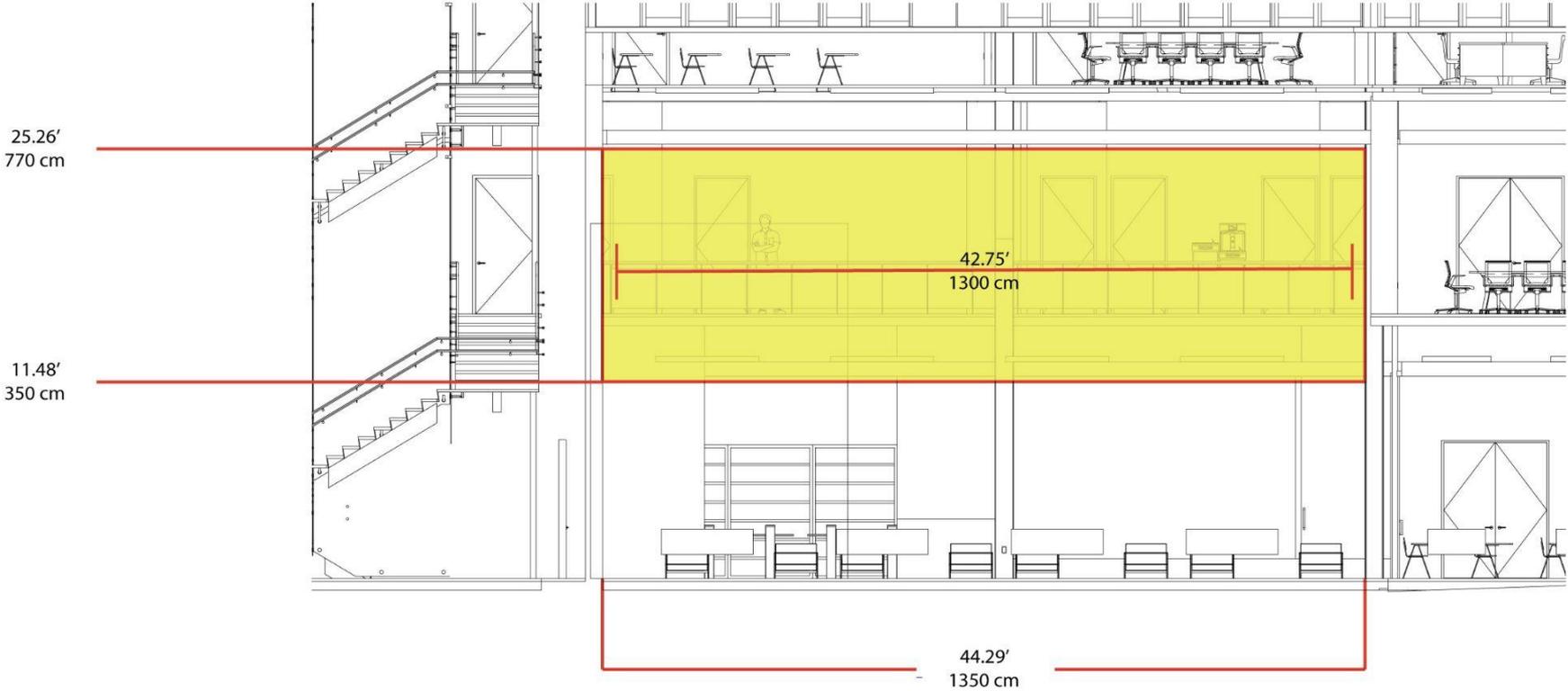


Suspended Sculpture in Atrium

Location and Dimensions

Maximum size: H 420 cm (13'8") x L 1300 cm (42'7") x D 518 cm (17')

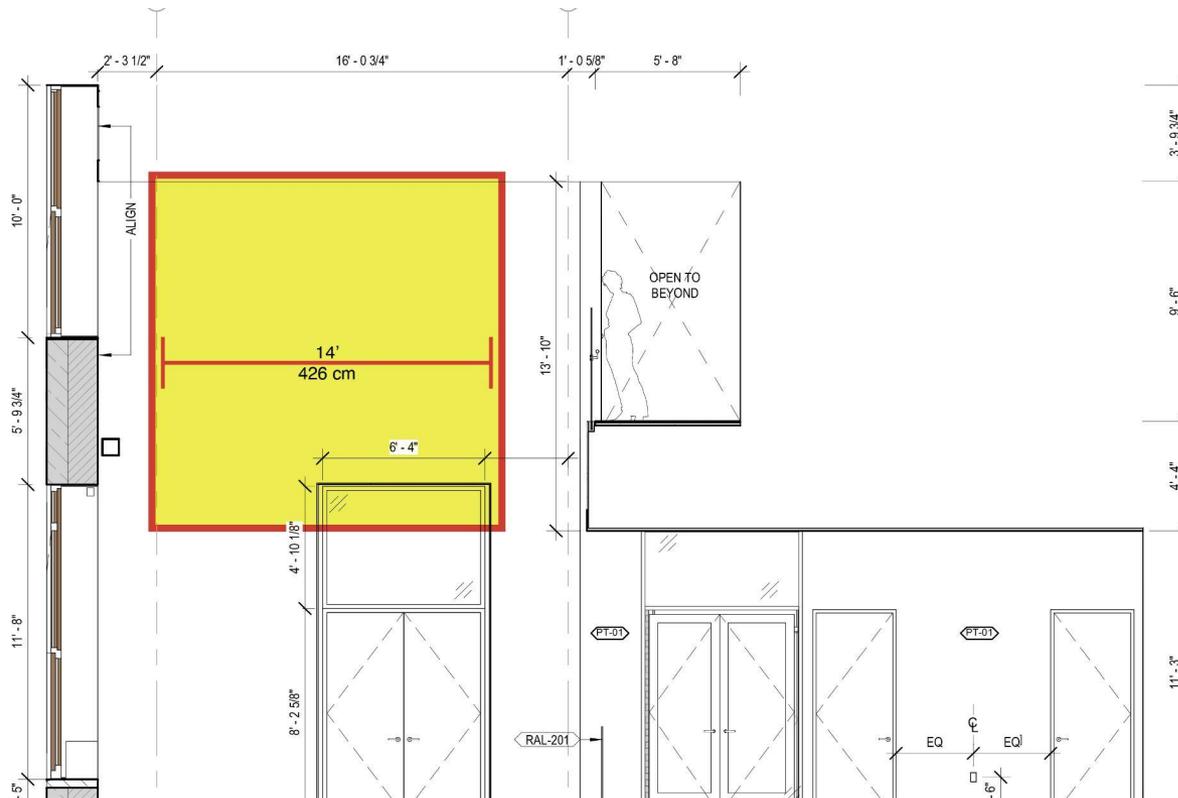
Art will not hang lower than 350 cm (11'6") from the ground



Suspended Sculpture in Atrium

Location and Dimensions

Maximum size: H 420 cm (13'8") x L 1300 cm (42'7") x D 426 cm (14')
Art will not hang lower than 350 cm (11'6") from the ground



Wings of Everchange 易之翼 **Artwork Proposal**

Conceptual Design

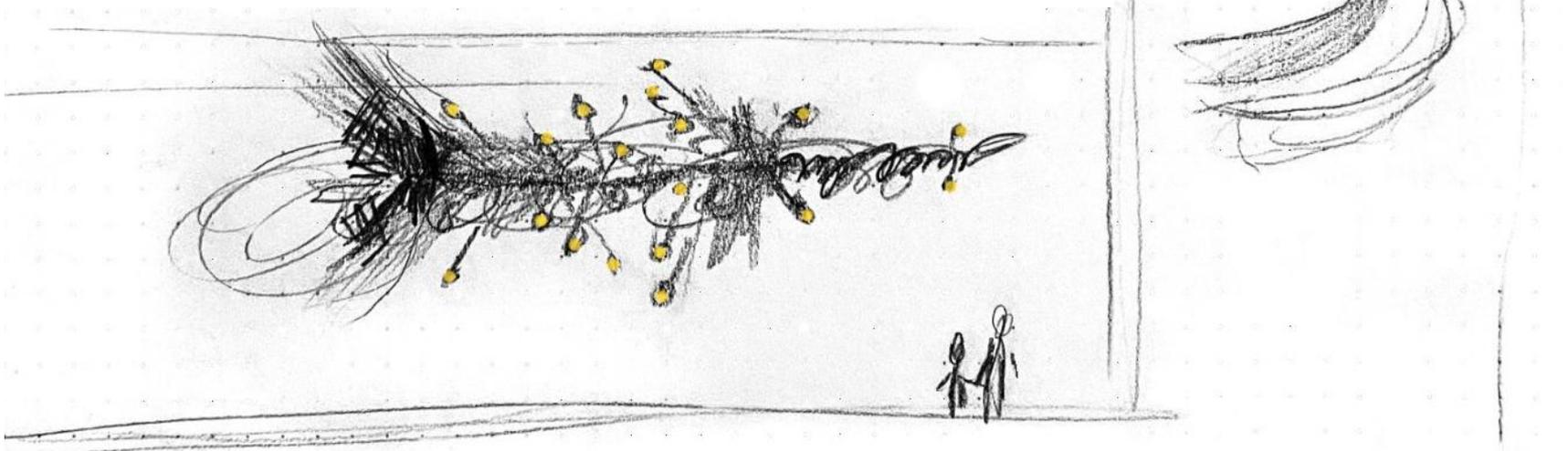
Concept

A creature of transformation becomes the artistic guardian to the building, linking the past to present, and in an ever changing process of evolving into the future. Salvaged architectural elements from the burnt site, memories of building occupants encased in time-capsules, and their aspirations and wishes for its future, form the body and wings of the creature in a state of metamorphosis and becoming. Following the ancient teaching of I-Ching, the element of change permeates all aspects of living, this work encourages us to embrace the changes to the building and community and take it towards the future with openness and fluidity.

Concept | Flying White

The project is presented in three parts, a suspended sculpture in the atrium, a long continuous ink painting winding up the stair tower, and a virtual archive of oral histories from the people who know the building well.

They are linked by the calligraphic principle of “flying white” to convey the strong and unbroken sense of community and history that this building represents.



Concept | Flying White

Flying white (飛白) is a technique that creates elegant curves and lines by swiftly moving a dry brush across the paper that leaves streaky or disconnected strokes. Yet the vitality transferred through the brushwork is so potent that the white spaces contain the transient energy of the artist.



Sample of “flying white” (飛白)

I. Suspended Sculpture in Atrium | Description

Suspended in the first-floor of the double-height atrium is a sculpture in the shape of an abstract mythological creature, made from metal, glass and a blend of historical architectural elements, measuring approximately 33' x 13' x 13' (10 x 4 x 4 meters).



I. Suspended Sculpture in Atrium | Concept Render



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Artwork Proposal
Wings of Everchange

Suspended Sculpture in Atrium
Concept Render

I. Suspended Sculpture in Atrium | Sculptural Elements

Elevating Community Voices | Words of Aspiration

Wings unfurling from the creature's body are shaped after Chinese calligraphic brush strokes, using keywords gathered from community members on the profound significance of this building and people's aspirations for its future.

Words under consideration to be translated into Chinese:

- Transformation
- Unity
- Reunite
- Community
- History
- Legacy
- Culture
- Soar

I. Suspended Sculpture in Atrium | Sculptural Elements

Elevating Community Voices | Calligraphic Rorschach

Keywords written in calligraphy are transformed into Rorschach-like ink blots, which creates symmetrical patterns that can be adapted into dynamic wing-like designs to propel the creature into flight.

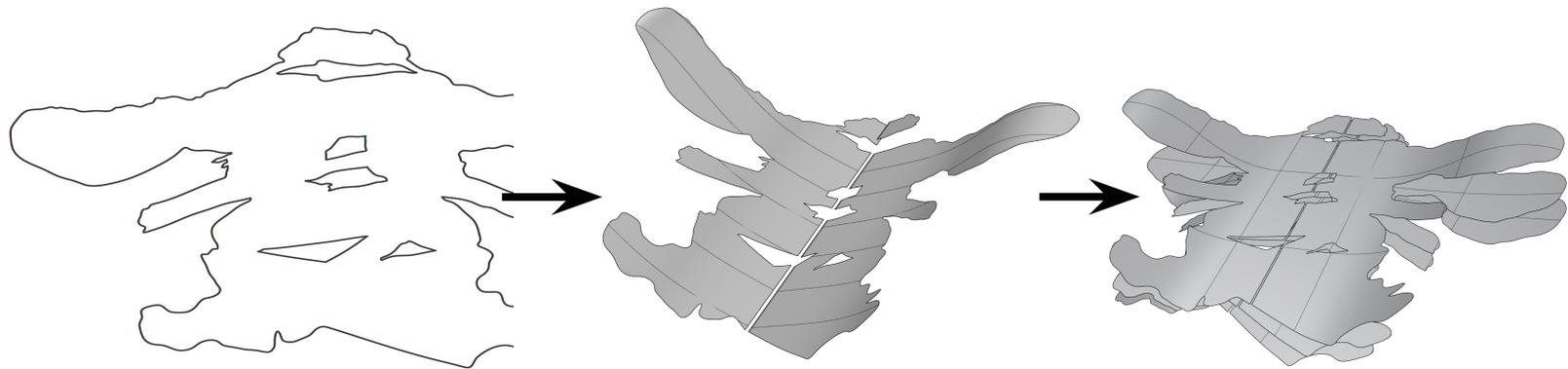


I. Suspended Sculpture in Atrium | Sculptural Elements

Elevating Community Voices | Calligraphic Rorschach



變 Character for “Transformation”: Rorschach inkblots can take various shapes, from being eligible to highly abstract symbolic representations of the word of origin.



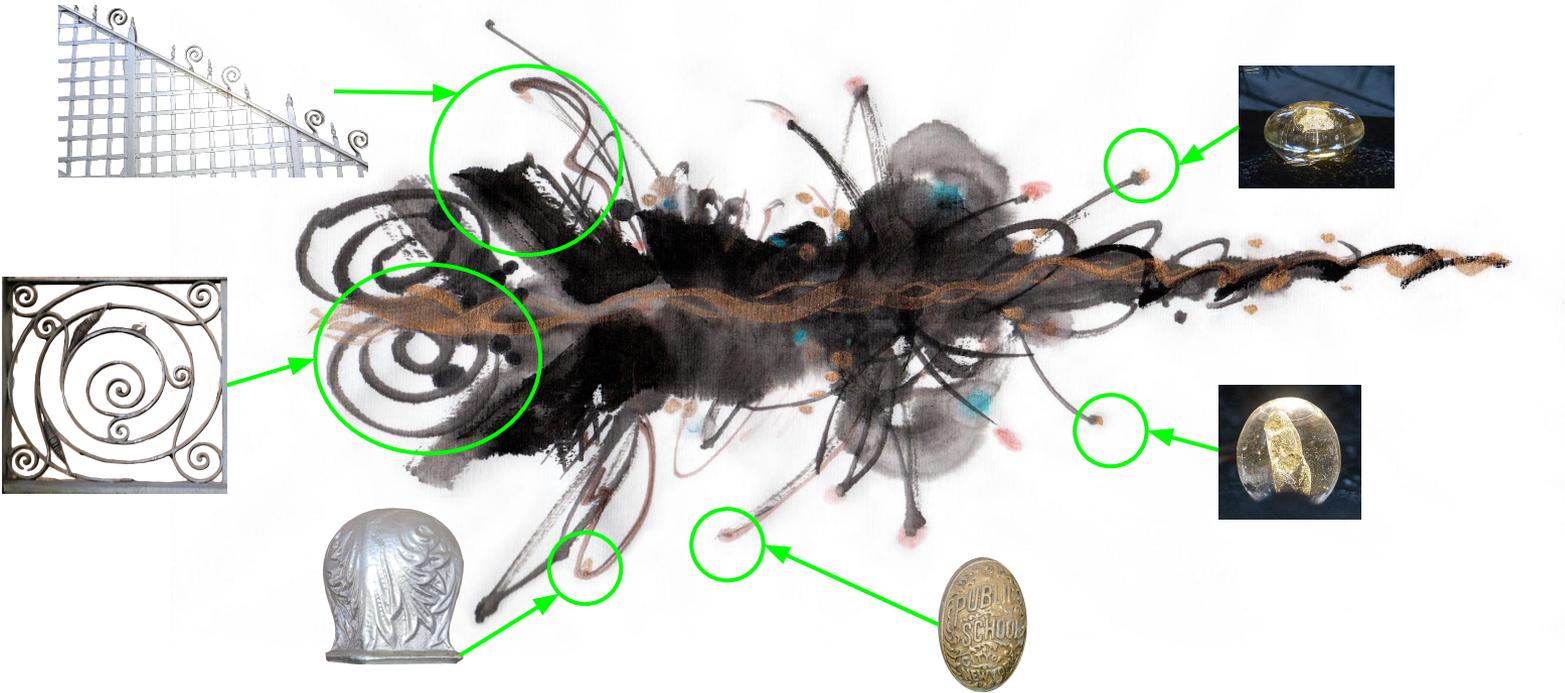
Inkblot outlines are traced and laser-cut into sheet metal and multiplied to create wing forms.

I. Suspended Sculpture in Atrium | Sculptural Elements

Connecting with History | Salvaged Materials

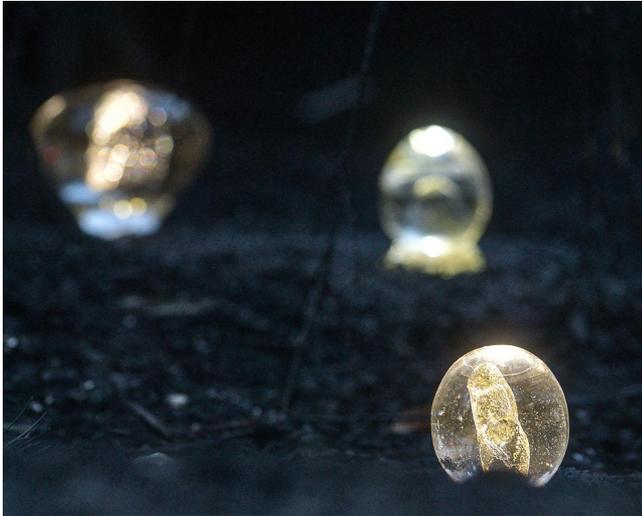
A rich collection of salvaged objects from the burnt site will be reused in the new sculpture, encapsulating 70 Mulberry's history of service.

Glass amber orbs connected by tentacle-like metal rods to the creature's body emit a warm glow of light. These interactive time capsules chronicle the building's impact and transformation through recorded stories from the community.



I. Suspended Sculpture in Atrium | Sculptural Elements

Connecting with History | Time Capsule Amber Glass



Examples of past glass work by the artist

Tenants and broader community members will be participants in creating these amber time-capsules, symbolically capturing past and present memories of building occupants, and preserving them for the future.

I. Suspended Sculpture in Atrium | 3D Study

Artist made a preliminary three-dimensional maquette to work out the integration of sculptural elements during this conceptual design process. While the sculptural elements outlined in the previous section are set, the forms that they will ultimately take are still being explored.



I. Suspended Sculpture in Atrium | 3D Study



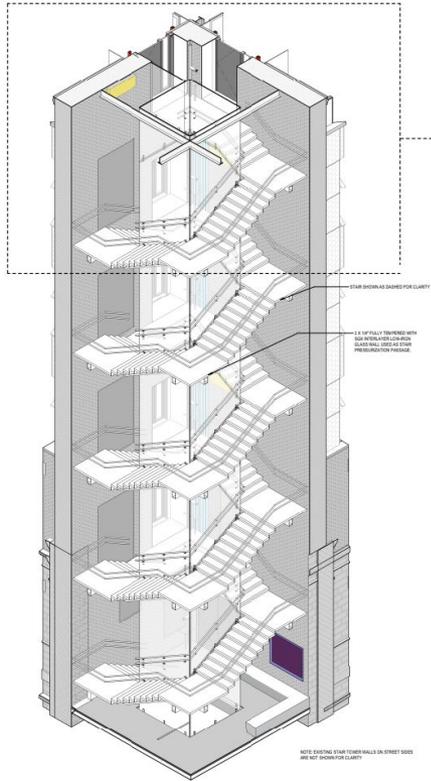
1:25 Scale

II. Ink Painting in Stair Tower | Description

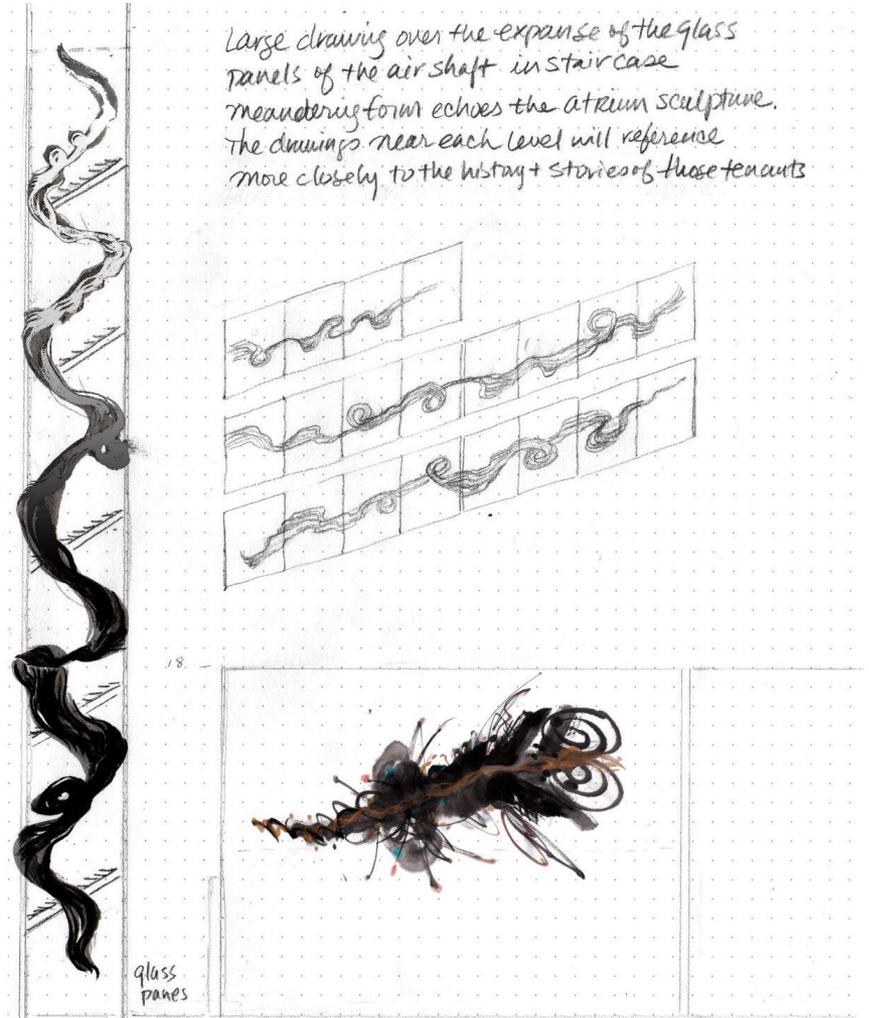
An energetic continuation of the atrium sculpture in painting form is displayed in the stair tower, on the glass panels of the wind shaft, as a long meandering ink painting that spirals up five stories, leading towards the skylight. The paintings are made in the artist's studio, then the images are reprinted and transferred to the inner-side of the glass panels on site. The paintings will be gestural and abstract, while incorporating figurative elements, drawing inspiration from the tenants' stories, missions, histories, and communities that they serve.

II. Ink Painting in Stair Tower | Concept Drawing

Concept Drawing | Connection to Atrium Sculpture



Location of work: glass wind shaft for fire safety



II. Ink Painting in Stair Tower | Past Work



The artist has an ongoing practice of making ink paintings on glass, here is an example of past work. Activating the glass shaft with her unique artistic language will dynamically expand the project.

II. Ink Painting in Stair Tower | Concept Render



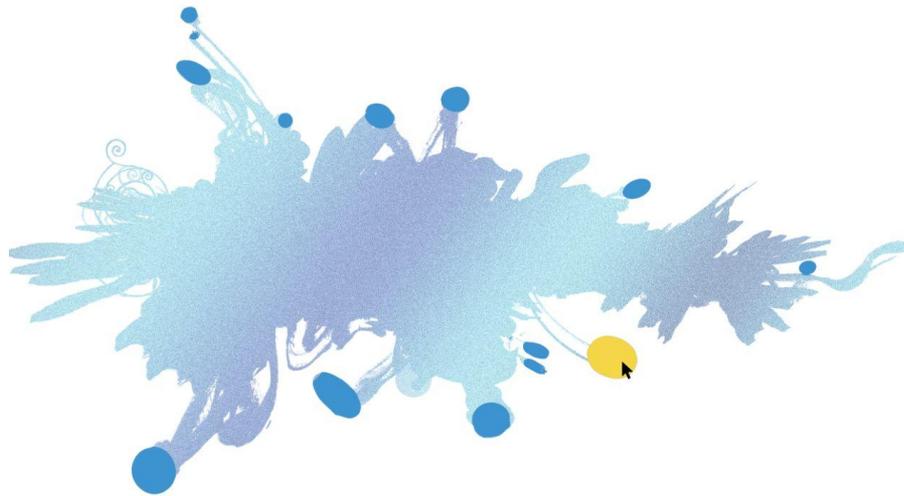
Rendering using a prior artwork to demonstrate the effect of painting mounted on glass, both in the articulation of image and translucent quality of glass.

III. Oral History Archive | Description

A website and mobile application will host the oral histories of 70 Mulberry Street told by the people who call it home, in their own words, voices and languages of their choice. The recordings are linked to the time-capsule-ambers embedded in the atrium sculpture, each orb is dedicated to a person, or a group of people, as a container for their memories and stories about the building. Thus create a direct and tangible sense of ownership and belonging for the participants.

Several ambers are designated to be filled in the years following the artwork's unveiling, capturing life in the new building and show the ongoing nature of history.

The website will features an interactive map where the recorded stories can be listened to by clicking on the amber orbs.



Do you have a story about 70 Mulberry Street?

A call to action in English and Chinese were presented at Community Board 3 meeting on Dec 12, 2023:

We invite 70 Mulberry community members to participate and contribute stories to the time-capsule ambers. We aim to create a vibrant collection of voices and stories that reflect the diversity of this community's history and experiences. Your participation is crucial in shaping the narrative.

We will reach out with more details at a later date, when this phase of the artwork begins. We look forward to collaborating with you to capture and preserve the essence of our community through your first-person accounts.

Thank you for considering our invitation, and we can't wait to hear your stories!

Summary*

Artist: Jennifer Wen Ma

Project Title: *Wings of Everchange*

Project in three parts:

1. Sculpture: approximately 33' x 13' x 13'
2. Painting: approximately 10' x 160'
3. Oral History: Hosted by website and mobile app

The project weaves together the past and present of 70 Mulberry, creating a multidimensional and multipart work in an ever-changing process of evolution, and propels our community into the future. Salvaged architectural elements from the burnt site, memories preserved in time-capsule ambers, and aspirations and wishes for the future, shape the ongoing metamorphosis of this work. Like a creature in flux, it embodies a continual state of becoming. Rooted in the ancient teaching of *I-Ching* that change is inherent in all aspects of life, this work urges us to embrace the history of the building and community and approach the future with openness and adaptability.

*Chinese translation was provided at CB3 Presentation on December 12, 2023



Suspended Sculpture in Atrium (Render)



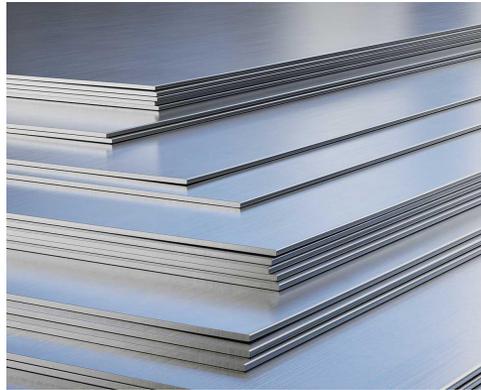
Ink Painting in Stair Tower (Render)

Technical Section

IV. Technical Section | Materials



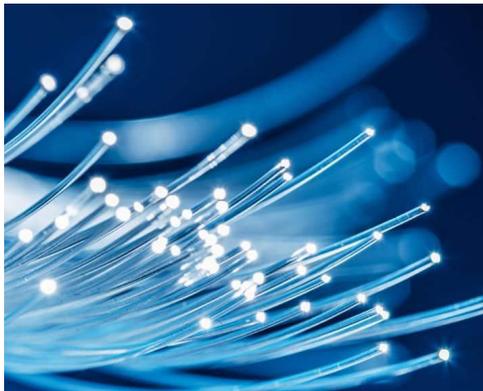
Original architectural elements



Metal
(Spine, wings, connectors)



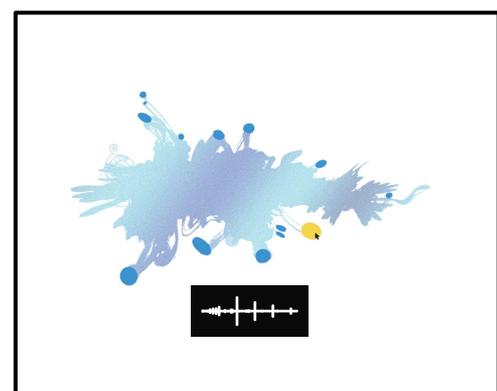
Glass orbs
(Time-capsule ambers)



Fiber optics
(Bring light to glass orbs)



Audio recordings



Website and mobile application hosting

IV. Technical Section | Technical Notes

Design

- Artist will work with NYC certified structural engineer to ensure the sculpture has internal structural integrity to necessitate artwork and public safety.

Fabrication

- Sculpture will be made in sections and assembled on site, by nuts, bolts and fittings.
- Artist will inform Grimshaw and building contractor of the weight and dimensions of the sculpture prior to delivery to ensure site will be ready to install work.
- Glass casting and hand blowing will be done with a professional glass studio, preferred to be in and around the NYC area, but also exploring other options, such as existing relationship with artist and glass workshop in Pittsburgh.
- Ink painting will be done at artist studio in NY. The images will be transferred by a printing method onto the glass panels on site. Artist is investigating durable approaches.
- Artist will make an effort to reach out to broader community that have used 70 Mulberry Street, beyond the five tenant's staff members, for oral history gathering.
- Artist will work with a website and mobile app design team to execute online components.

Installation

- Suspension of sculpture: will work with professional installation team, and closely consult with Grimshaw and building contractors on the hanging of the work.
- Will work with lighting designer to deliver light to glass ambers, without turning the sculpture into a "light fixture." Currently exploring the possibility of using fiber optics.
- Will work with lighting designer to ensure the sculpture in the atrium and ink paintings in the staircase are well lit.

IV. Technical Section | Maintenance

- Metal wings and glass orbs should be dusted and cleaned once a year. Artist will provide more detailed directions at the time of delivery of the artwork.
- Artist will consult with engineer to recommend on the frequency and method of routine check up on safety and security of the sculpture suspension system.
- Artist will consult with lighting designer on troubleshooting the glass-orb lighting system, and provide more detailed directions at the time of delivery of the artwork.
- Will provide digital files of paintings for each glass panel, in case of need for replacement due to glass breakage in the staircase.
- DCAS will need to conduct routine check-ins on the external lights for the sculpture and painting.
- Website and mobile application will need routine regular maintenance.



Thank You!

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