

ONE EVERYONE · St. Louis

ONE EVERYONE · St. Louis is a public art project commissioned through Washington University's Art on Campus program for Hillman Hall, the new home of the George Warren Brown School of Social Work opening fall 2015. Developed in response to and in collaboration with the Brown School, this project will create a series of individual portraits of students, faculty, staff, and community partners, and a communally authored collection of quotations in the form of a commonplace which grounds and inspires social work and public health practices.

At the core of the Brown School's programs is a recognition of individual peoples and experiences. Seeing and being seen—represented in language and in image—form the basis of contact, exchange, and expression; they are also the substance of this project.

In two weeklong residencies, volunteers will be photographed through a semi-transparent membrane that registers in focus only what immediately touches its surface while rendering more softly the gesture or outline of the body. In these images, touch—something we feel more than we see—is visible. In them we feel the glance of cloth's fall, the weight of a hand, the press of a face, the possibility of recognition in portraits haunted by contact.

Thirty-eight selected portraits will be installed as large scale permanent porcelain enamel panels across the curved walls of the second and third floors, which bracket the Forum Room and the building's central gathering area. While the gesture of these portraits is fixed in time, the project's Tumblr site will continue to grow, gathering quotations from the bodies of literature that influence, motivate, and shape the Brown School's work. Reflecting Brown's participation in local, national and international worlds, selected portraits and quotations will be printed as airmail envelopes which are freely available from wall-mounted pads and can be sent via post—a message hand carried from one individual to another. Social change can begin with a gesture that communicates at a distance greater than the reach of our voice or the touch of our hand. Perhaps the hand this project offers is one of acknowledgement and possibility.

- Ann Hamilton