



{WORDFALL}

TEMPLE SINAI

Proposal by Francie Hester and Lisa Hill



{WORDFALL}
TEMPLE SINAI
CONCEPT

WORK IN PROGRESS

Wordfall: Temple Sinai is a site specific installation that will be located in the entry hallway of Temple Sinai. The installation will be placed in the center area of the display case along with the preserved Torah rescued from an abandoned Mikveh in the town of Czestochowa, Poland, in an adjacent section of the display case.

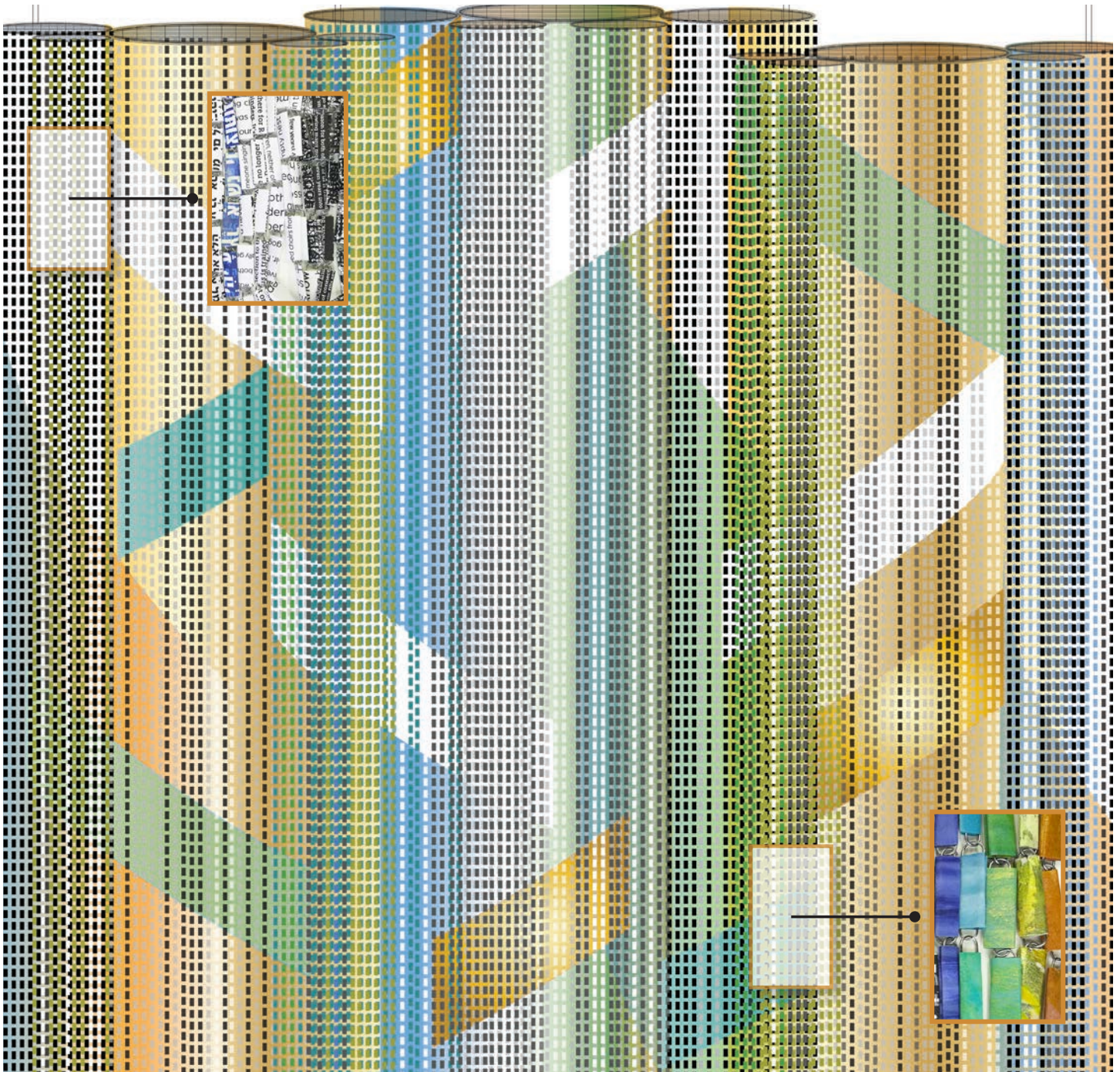
*“Story telling is a part of
our Jewish tradition –
it connects us with each other
and with our shared history,
and binds us together for the future.
“Sinai Stories” is a series about
our connections to one another,
Temple Sinai and
the larger Jewish community.”*

— Marcie Solomon—

Text is the catalyst for *Wordfall: Temple Sinai*, which explores how our collective stories enlighten, reveal, and celebrate our connections. Congregation members will engage with *Wordfall* through the words and wrapping of the paper clips, giving them a sense of inclusion and ownership.

The completed installation will represent the diverse congregation by reflecting Temple Sinai’s vibrant, joyful, and intellectually stimulating spirit, where members of all ages feel a sense of belonging.

Using cylindrical shapes that abstractly reference the two handles (Atzei Chayim) of the Torah, Hester and Hill will create a piece that builds on the thousands of words that embrace the history and shared experiences of the Sinai community.



SAMPLE TIMELINE

PHASE 1 - FINALIZE SITE SPECIFICS

On-site meeting with any necessary professionals to review the installation location. March 2025

PHASE 2 - PREPARE ARTWORK / PRINTING / WRAPPING KITS March through June 2025

PHASE 3 - LAUNCH AND COORDINATE WRAPPING WITH TEMPLE SINAI COMMUNITY June 2025

PHASE 4 - ONGOING COORDINATION OF WRAPPING June through October 2025

PHASE 5 - COMPLETION OF WRAPPING BY COMMUNITY October 31, 2025

PHASE 6 - ARTISTS ASSEMBLE INSTALLATION IN THEIR STUDIO November 2025 through January 2026

PHASE 7 - FINAL INSTALLATION AT TEMPLE SINAI February 2026

**If the wrapping is not completed by the end of Phase 5, Temple Sinai can extend the deadline for completion of the wrapping. This will require a corresponding extension in the deadlines for the assembly and final installation of the artwork.*

PROPOSED TEMPLE SINAI TEXT

1. Sinai Stories (Sample 1 of many)

HEBREW SCHOOL ISN'T JUST FOR KIDS – Ginny Levin

As we sat enjoying our end of year pot-luck dinner on the porch of Lafe Solomon's and Cam Crockett's house on May 2, members of Kitah Dalet, aka The Daletniks, were trying to remember when we came together as a group of adult Hebrew learners. The best we could estimate was a little over 20 years ago when we met in the library on Thursday evenings. We were considered the "advanced" (picture air quotes) class among those offered by the temple at the time. We were blessed with Leesa Fine (z"l) as a teacher and happily trudged at least twice through The First Hebrew Primer, 3rd Edition learning enough grammar – that meant a myriad of verb tenses – and vocabulary to try to translate prayers from Mishkan Tefillah and then on to sections of the Tanakh. We translate verses for homework by consulting several dictionaries. As a group, we have different favorites, but we all found Genesis, B'reishit, rewarding and Ecclesiastes, Kohelet, baffling.

Before Kitah Dalet, most of us were in other Hebrew classes, some following our adult B'nei Mitzvah, wanting to continue our momentum. Some of us had attended years of Hebrew school as kids, others were fast learners without that benefit. There has been turnover. A couple of years ago, we welcomed a new member who took Hebrew classes at college, lowering our mean age. We now meet on Zoom for class, no longer officially a temple program, with Rabbi Marc Gruber as our teacher. In addition to Kitah Dalet, another adult Hebrew class meets on Zoom, Sunday afternoons, also translating and discussing texts. Originally known as Kitah Gimel, it is now Naan. Both classes would be happy to add new members.

At dinner, we expressed puzzlement as to why more folks at the temple have not wanted to pursue adult Hebrew to get a better feel for what we read in services. Language study is good for the brain, and learning Hebrew with friends is good for the soul.

2. Story of the Holocaust Torah gift to Temple Sinai

This Torah fragment, together with a number of Torah Scrolls and hundreds of Sacred Books, was discovered in the spring of 1988 in an abandoned Mikveh in the town of Czestochowa, Poland. After Great difficulty, Mr. Harry Rapaport, a second generation member, whose father and in-laws come from Czestochowa, was successful in bringing out of Poland a major part of these holy books and scrolls Through the generosity of our members Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Gruber, who are themselves Holocaust survivors. This Holy Scroll remnant has been placed on display here in the vestibule of our sanctuary to serve as a constant and vivid reminder of the tragic period in our history and to symbolize our undying faith in the future of the Jewish people.



3. Genesis 1:1 B'reishit from the Holocaust Torah

When God began to create heaven and earth—

מִימָה יִגְפַּלַע תַּפְחֻרְמָּ מִיְהֵלֵא חוּרֹן מוֹהֵת יִגְפַּלַע רְשָׁחוֹ וְהָבִן וְהוֹל הֵתִיָּא צְרָאָהוּ

the earth being unformed and void, with darkness over the surface of the deep and a wind from God sweeping over the water—

רֹא-יָהוִי רֹא יֵהִי מִיְהֵלֵא רְמֵאִין

God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

רְשָׁחָה וַיְבִי רֹאָה וַיֵּב מִיְהֵלֵא לְדַבְּיָּ בּוֹטִיכָּ רֹאָה־תָּא מִיְהֵלֵא אַרְיָּ

God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.

פּ: דַּחָא מוֹי רַקְבִּיָּהוּ בְרַעֲיָהוּ הַלִּיל אַרְקָּ רְשָׁחֹו מוֹי רֹאֵל | מִיְהֵלֵא אַרְקָּיָּ

God called the light Day and called the darkness Night. And there was evening and there was morning, a first day.

מִימְלָּ מִימָּ וַיֵּב לִידְבָּמָּ יֵהוּ מִימָּה רֹתַבְּ עִיקָּר יֵהִי מִיְהֵלֵא רְמֵאִין

God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the water, that it may separate water from water."

רְשָׁא מִימָּה וַיְבִי עִיקָּרֵל תַּחַתָּמָּ רְשָׁא מִימָּה וַיֵּב לְדַבְּיָּ עִיקָּרֵתָּא מִיְהֵלֵא שַׁעֲיָּ וַיִּכְרִיָּהוּ עִיקָּרֵל לַעַמָּ

God made the expanse, and it separated the water which was below the expanse from the water which was above the expanse. And it was so.

פּ: יִגֶּשׁ מוֹי רַקְבִּיָּהוּ בְרַעֲיָהוּ מִימְשָׁ עִיקָּרֵל מִיְהֵלֵא אַרְקָּיָּ

God called the expanse Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

וַיִּכְרִיָּהוּ הַשְּׁבִיָּה הָאֲרָמֹו דַּחָא מוֹקְמָּ לָא מִימְשָׁה תַּחַתָּמָּ מִימָּה וְהוּיָּ מִיְהֵלֵא רְמֵאִין

God said, "Let the water below the sky be gathered into one area, that the dry land may appear." And it was so.

בוטריכ מיהלא ארין מימי ארק היםה הוקמלו ארא השביל | מיהלא ארקין:

God called the dry land Earth and called the gathering of waters Seas. And God saw that this was good.

**רשא ונימל ירפ השע ירפ ער ער עירזמ בשע אשד אראה אשדת מיהלא רמאין
וכיהין אראה-לע וברוער:**

And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation: seed-bearing plants, fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so.

**והנימל וברוער רשא ירפ-השע ערו והנימל ערו עירזמ בשע אשד אראה אצותו
בוטריכ מיהלא ארין:**

The earth brought forth vegetation: seed-bearing plants of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that this was good.

פ: ישילש סוי רקביהין ברעיהין

And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

**תחאל ויהו הלילה ויבו מויה ויב לידבהל מימשה עיקרב תראמ יהי מיהלא רמאין
מינשו סימלו מידעומלו:**

God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate day from night; they shall serve as signs for the set times—the days and the years;

וכיהין אראה-לע ריאהל מימשה עיקרב תראמל ויהו:

and they shall serve as lights in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth." And it was so.

**תאו מויה תלשמל לדגה רואמה-תא מילדגה תראמה ינשתא מיהלא שעין
מיבכוכה תאו הלילה תלשמל וטקה רואמה:**

God made the two great lights, the greater light to dominate the day and the lesser light to dominate the night, and the stars.

אראה-לע ריאהל מימשה עיקרב מיהלא מתא ותין:

And God set them in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth,

בוטריכ מיהלא ארין רשתה ויבו רואה ויב לידבהלו הליבו מויה לשמלו:

to dominate the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that this was good.

פ: יעיבר סוי רקביהין ברעיהין

And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

**עיקר ינפילע רשא ערו ערו | בשע-לכתא מכל יתמנ הנה מיהלא רמאין
הלכאל יהי מכל ערו ערו עירופ וברשא עעה-לכתאו:**

God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and birds that fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky."

**וצרש רשא תשמרה | הינה שפנ-לכתאו מילדגה מינמה-תא מיהלא ארבי
בוטריכ מיהלא ארין והנימל רנכ פועל-לכתאו והנימל מימה:**

God created the great sea monsters, and all the living creatures of every kind that creep, which the waters

brought forth in swarms, and all the winged birds of every kind. And God saw that this was good.

אראב ברי-פועהו מימיב מיה-תא ואלמו וברו ורפ רמאל מיהלא מתא ררבי:

God blessed them, saying, "Be fertile and increase, fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."

פ: ישימח סוי רקביהין ברעיהין

And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

וכיהין הנימל ארא-ותיחו שמרו המהב הנימל היח שפנ אראה אצות מיהלא רמאין:

God said, "Let the earth bring forth every kind of living creature: cattle, creeping things, and wild beasts of every kind." And it was so.

**המדאה שמר-לכתאו הנימל המהב-תאו הנימל אראה תיח-תא מיהלא שעין
בוטריכ מיהלא ארין והנימל:**

God made wild beasts of every kind and cattle of every kind, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. And God saw that this was good.

**מימשה פועבו מיה תגדב ודריו ונתומדכ ומלצב סדא השענ מיהלא רמאין
אראה-לע שמרה שמרה-לכבו אראה-לכבו המהבבו:**

And God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness. They shall rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the cattle, the whole earth, and all the creeping things that creep on earth."

מתא ארב הבקנו רכז ותא ארב מיהלא מלצב ומלצב סדאה-תא | מיהלא ארבי:

And God created humankind in the divine image, creating it in the image of God—creating them male and female.

**ודרו השבכו אראה-תא ואלמו וברו ורפ מיהלא סהל רמאין מיהלא מתא ררבי
אראה-לע תשמרה היח-לכבו מימשה פועבו מיה תגדב:**

God blessed them and God said to them, "Be fertile and increase, fill the earth and master it; and rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and all the living things that creep on earth."

**אראה-לכ ינפילע רשא ערו ערו | בשע-לכתא מכל יתמנ הנה מיהלא רמאין
הלכאל יהי מכל ערו ערו עירופ וברשא עעה-לכתאו:**

God said, "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant that is upon all the earth, and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit; they shall be yours for food.

**היח שפנ וברשא אראה-לע שמור | לכו מימשה פועל-לכו אראה תיח-לכו
וכיהין הלכאל בשע קרי-לכתא:**

And to all the animals on land, to all the birds of the sky, and to everything that creeps on earth, in which there is the breath of life, [I give] all the green plants for food." And it was so.

פ: יששה סוי רקביהין ברעיהין דאמ בוטה-נהו השע רשא-לכתא מיהלא ארין

And God saw all that had been made, and found it very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.



PROCESS: PAPER CLIP WRAPPING

Once the text from various sources has been finalized, the artists will recreate those word on small sheets of paper to be wrapped by the community of Temple Sinai. Each participating community member will receive a wrapping kit complete with paper clips, paper, and instructions on how to wrap a single strand of 100 clips, which the artists will then integrate and assemble into the hanging installation.





{WORDFALL}
SERIES
INSTALLATIONS

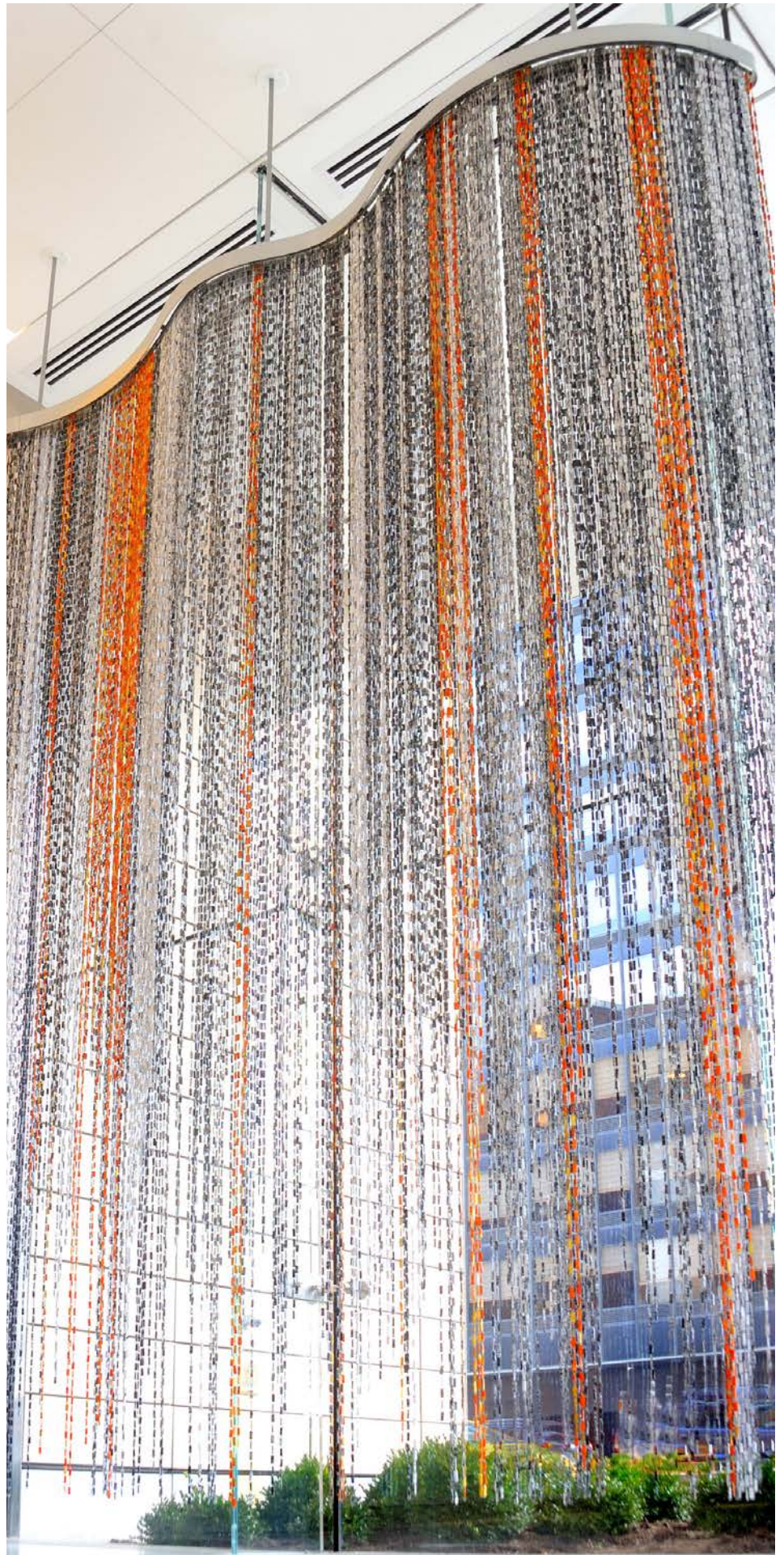


WORDFALL: INOVA
is an installation for the
INOVA Schar Cancer Center
in Fairfax, Virginia
December 2021
Dimensions: 159" x 21" x 120"

{WORDFALL}
SERIES
INSTALLATIONS



WORDFALL: MSK
was created for the lobby
of the Memorial Sloan Kettering
Josie Robertson Surgery Center in
New York City.
December 2015
Dimensions: 15' x 11' x 8"

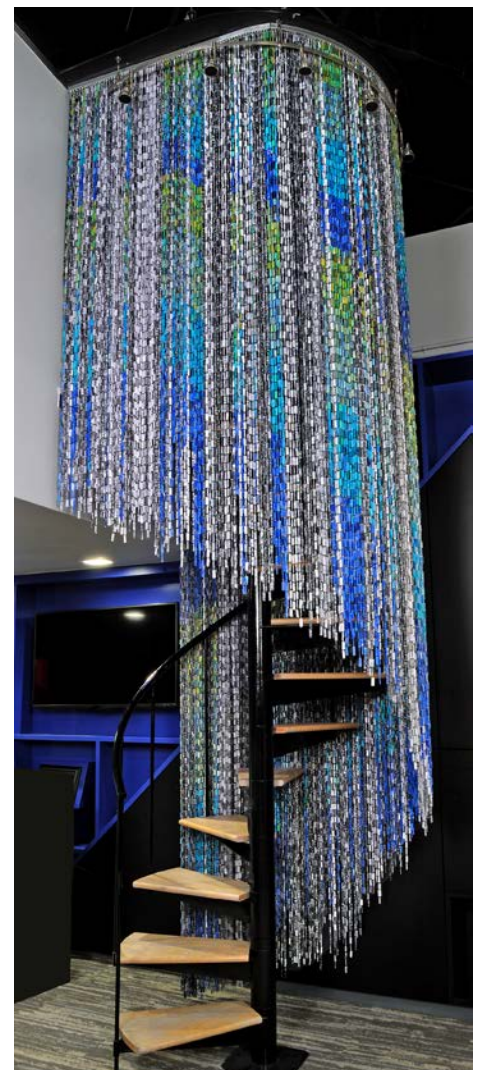




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SERIES
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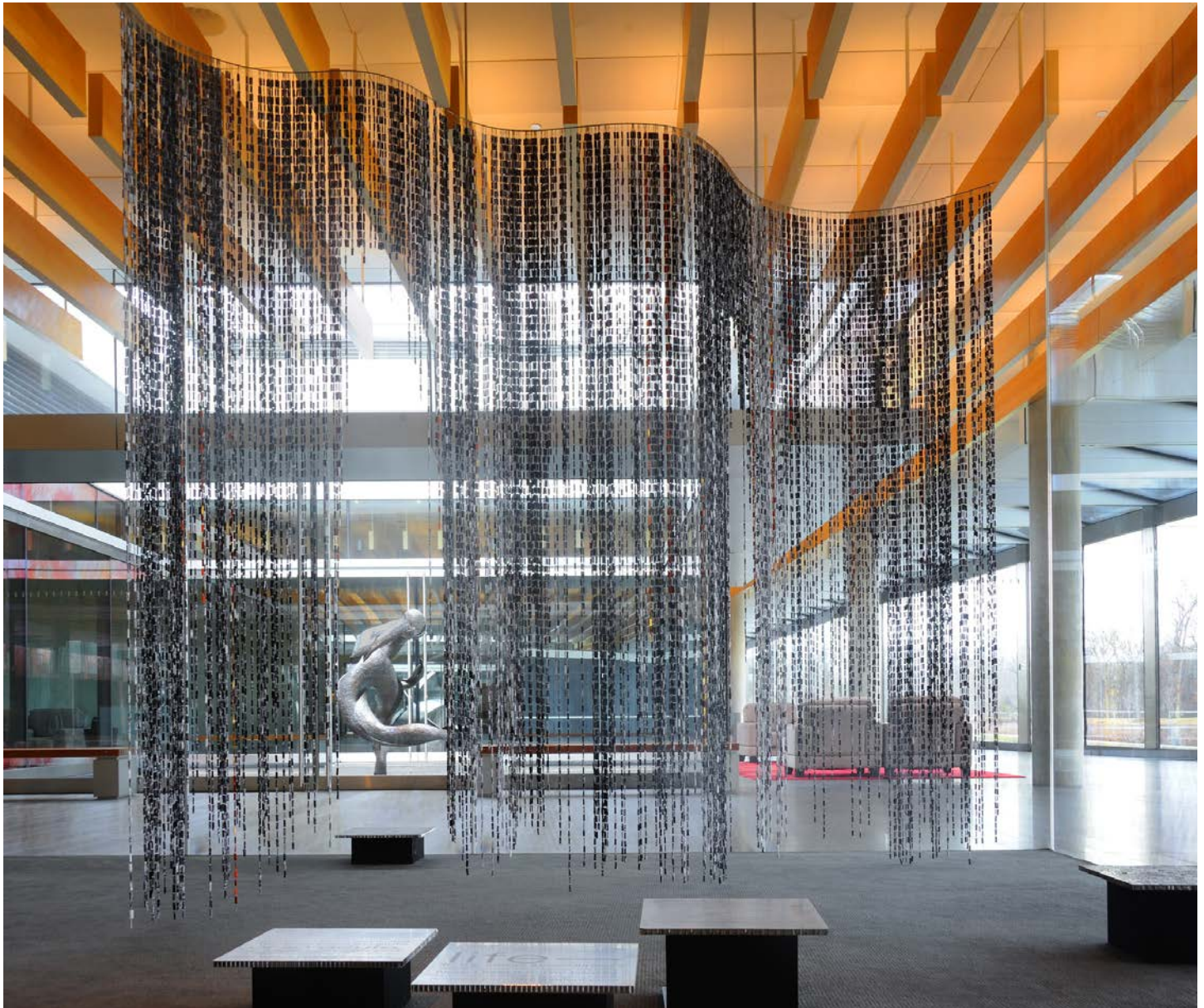
WORDFALL:
CURRENTS

is an installation for the Memorial
Sloan Kettering
Teen and Young Adult Lounge in
New York City.
December 2016
Dimensions: 13' 6" x 5' x 5'



{WORDFALL}
SERIES
INSTALLATIONS

WORDFALL II
was an installation for the gallery at the
Howard Hughes Medical Institute —
Janelia Campus, Ashburn, Virginia
March – August 2015
Dimensions: 10' x 11' x 3"



{WORDFALL}

SERIES
INSTALLATIONS

(The following is part of a review that appeared in *The Washington Post* by Michael O’Sullivan.)

One of the most powerful works in the Athenaeum show is “Wordfall,” by Francie Hester and Lisa Hill. Constructed from more



than 60,000 interconnected paper clips — each of which has been wrapped with small strips of printed paper and hung in strings, like a beaded curtain — the sculpture forms a kind of torrent of printed text.

Its origins lie in two earlier artworks, each of which was conceived as a memorial. The

first, designed to honor magazine writer Diane Granat Yalowitz, who died of brain cancer in 2004, consists of strips of *Washingtonian* magazine, where she worked as an editor and writer for many years.

The second basis for “Wordfall” honors Brendan Ogg, a friend of Yalowitz’s son who died in 2010, also of brain cancer, at age 20.

The aspiring poet is memorialized here with strips of paper containing verse from his posthumously published chapbook, “Summer Becomes Absurd.”

Few individual words in “Wordfall” are legible. But that’s not the point. Its message is that in the writing we leave behind, we live forever.

Review by Michael O’Sullivan. (May 23, 2014). Art takes on a language of its own. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from https://www.washingtonpost.com/go/outguide/museums/art-review-words-and-letters-at-the-athenaeum/2014/05/22/d9af0476-dd39-11e3-bda1-9b46b2066796_story.html.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

Article by Marilyn Fenichel (AUGUST 24, 2016) The Picture Of Health: Art Exhibits In Cancer Centers Help Patients And Families Heal. *Cure*. Retrieved from: <https://www.curetoday.com/publications/cure/2016/summer-2016/the-picture-of-health-art-exhibits-in-cancer-centers-help-patients-and-families-heal?p=1>

Article by Emily Towner (FEB 16, 2016) Taking Care of the Spirit. *Our Town*. Retrieved from: <http://www.ourtownny.com/local-news/20160216/taking-care-of-the-spirit>

WORDFALL
for the Arts & Letters exhibition at
the Athenaeum in Alexandria, Virginia
May – August 2014
Dimensions: 20' x 5' x 1'





Artists Francie Hester and Lisa Hill have collaborated on projects, installations, and exhibitions for more than twenty-five year, and have completed several installations working with communities to wrap words that reflect on their shared experiences.

FRANCIE HESTER has exhibited her work both nationally and internationally. Her work is represented in numerous private and corporate collections including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Airbus, Capital One, Freddie Mac, ASHA, and Booz Allen Hamilton. She has received honorary grants from the District of Columbia Art Commission, Arts Council of Montgomery County, Maryland and the Maryland State Arts Council. She received her M.F.A. in painting from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a B.F.A. in painting from the University of Michigan. Hester is represented by Susan Eley Fine Art in New York City.

FRANCIEHESTER.COM

LISA HILL has work that is represented nationally in both private and corporate collections and has exhibited her work nationally and internationally. She was awarded an honorary grant from the Arts Council of Montgomery County, Maryland. She is also an educator who has taught at the Corcoran College of Art + Design, Johns Hopkins University, and NOVA where she was the Assistant Dean for Graphic Design. She received her B.A. in Fine Arts/Graphic Design from the University of Florida and her M.F.A. in Studio Art from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA.)

LISAHILLART.COM

// THE INSTALLATION...
IS SIMPLY AMAZING.
THIS INSTALLATION WAS ONE
OF THE MOST MOVING EXAMPLES
OF THE GENRE THAT
I HAVE EVER SEEN,
AND IT MADE ME REFLECT ON
THE POWER OF WORDS AND ART,
WHEN MARRIED TOGETHER
BY SKILLED ARTISTS DELIVERING
SOMETHING NEW AND MEMORABLE
TO THE DIALOGUE... //

—LENNY CAMPELLO—

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—MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN—