122 Conversations
Person to Person, Art Beyond Borders

By Kat Lyzun

In American artist Anne Labovitz’s exhibition, 122 Conversations, vibrantly colored paintings evoke the human spirit with layers of names, words, and faces as the artist interprets conversations she had with people in six different countries. Each painting is unique yet interconnected, much like we are as people. “(The idea) is that we’re an individual, but also part of something whole. Peace, for example, was something that was universally common—said in different words, but the same concept,” Labovitz says.

122 Conversations is focused on the culture and people of Duluth and its Sister Cities: Thunder Bay, Rania (Iraqi Kurdistan), Petrozavodsk (Russia), Ohara Isumi (City, Japan), and Vasjo (Sweden). Labovitz spoke with at least 10 people in each city, either in person or via Skype. She then created six large pieces based on her interpretation of those conversations woven with cultural elements unique to each place. She cut each painting into four mini-paintings that will then be compiled and added to the travelling show. “I like the idea of ‘I touched it, you touched it, they touched it—everyone touched it,’” she says. “This is a warm invitation to the people of Thunder Bay to come and tell your story.”

The project is led by Labovitz and organized by the Tweed Museum of Art in Duluth in collaboration with Duluth Sister Cities International and the University of Minnesota Duluth’s School of Fine Arts. It runs in Thunder Bay until October 18, 2015.

A native of Duluth, Anne Labovitz currently lives and works in St. Paul, MN. Her paintings are part of the permanent collections at the Tweed Museum of Art in Duluth, MN, as well as galleries in California and Bosnia-Herzegovina. She would love you to share your thoughts on the show on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram with #122conversations.