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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**In Divisive World Climate, Labovitz's *122 Conversations*
Unites Countries, Cultures, and Communities**

Six-Year, International Arts Project Culminates in Duluth

Opening Reception Oct. 25/Ends Jan. 6

Tweed Museum of Art, 1201 Ordean Court, Duluth, Minn.

Duluth, Minn. – [122 Conversations](#) | *Person to Person: Art Beyond Borders*, is the culmination of a six-year initiative by artist, Anne Labovitz, to meaningfully connect the people from six diverse countries and cultures. The artist envisioned the multi-city, multi-year arts project as a catalyst for positive social change one person at a time.

The show explores cross-cultural connections through interviews, paintings, and participatory artmaking as a creative catalyst for breaking barriers. The impressions and words of the many face-to-face and Skype conversations with participants from six different cities around the globe were inscribed layer over layer and became embedded as the foundation and narrative content of the artworks throughout the show. Yet, while there is a collective narrative in all of the works, each city's creative elements display their unique character.

"The ***122 Conversations*** project is metaphorically a global, visual chorus celebrating our differences and a place for people to participate, joining the chorus," explains Labovitz. "The experience of finding ways to relate to another and sharing that experience with a stranger reveals a fundamental element of human nature – interdependence can bridge distances."

122 Conversations | Person to Person: Art Beyond Borders includes more than 100 objects, including paintings, sculpture, video documentation and participatory elements. The dominant element of the show is the artist's vivid painted scrolls. Lush with color and intense brushstrokes, the 6- to 40-foot scrolls suspend from the gallery ceiling and puddle on the gallery's floors. The fluid acrylic scrolls visually meld 60 artist-led interviews involving ten residents from each of Duluth's five [Sister Cities](#) (DSCI) around the globe.

Equally important and integral to the project are the participatory elements that give people an opportunity to actively interact with the exhibit – giving them a voice to connect cross-culturally through their artistic contributions. One such activity invited children and adults in each city to share their own drawings, stories or words on small painted paper tiles created by the artist. These collected messages from the various countries are displayed in mass within the exhibition.

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"*122 Conversations | Person to Person: Art Beyond Borders* is an artist-led project that celebrates humanity and the radical and political act of caring," observes Omayra Alvarado, Executive Director, Instituto de Visión, Bogotá, Colombia. "In a world where we are inundated with differences, oftentimes, in our haste, we focus on how these differences divide us. Through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation, the artist aims to create a heartfelt connection."

The exhibition is the final stop in a six-venue, worldwide tour, which was organized through Duluth's International Sister Cities network. The tour included exhibits in Canada, Sweden, Russia, Iraqi Kurdistan, and Japan, culminating in a final exhibition at Tweed Museum of Art, Duluth, Minn.

122 Conversations | Person to Person: Art Beyond Borders, Tweed Museum of Art, (1201 Ordean Court, Duluth, Minn.) runs through Jan. 6, 2019. The Opening Reception is Oct. 25, 6-8:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit www.122Conversations.com.

About the Artist

A native of Duluth, [Anne Labovitz](#) currently lives and works in St. Paul, Minn. In 2013, she was recognized with [Duluth Depot Foundation's](#) Artist Award as an artist whose distinguished career has made significant contributions to the development of both artists and the arts. In 2015, Labovitz was awarded the key to all six sister cities by Duluth Sister Cities, Intl. for her work in *122 Conversations*. Her paintings are part of the permanent collections at the [Tweed Museum of Art](#) in Duluth, Minn., the [Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#) in La Jolla, Calif., the [Minnesota Museum of American Art](#), the [Weisman Art Museum](#), and the [International Gallery of Portrait](#) in Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Labovitz is a member of the Board of Trustees for [the Walker Art Center](#) in Minneapolis, an Advisory Board member of The [Artist Book Foundation](#) in New York City, and a former member of the Colleagues Advisory Board at the [Weisman Art Museum](#) on the campus of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. In August 2017, Labovitz received her Master of Fine Arts degree from [Transart Institute](#), an innovative program based in Berlin and New York. She received her degree in art and art education from Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn. In addition, she has trained in studios in Italy, New Mexico, New York, Massachusetts, and North Carolina.

Labovitz is a professional artist and teaches arts education and conducts artist workshops in both public and private schools, and throughout the Minneapolis/St. Paul community. She also is active in the Duluth, Minn., art community and metro area.

For details about upcoming workshops on *122 Conversations: Person to Person, Art Beyond Borders* please visit: www.122Conversations.com

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Connect:

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Follow the hashtag: #122Conversations

Tweed Museum

Twitter: @TweedMuseum

Instagram: @tweedmuseum

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Tweed.Museum.of.Art/>

Website: www.d.umn.edu/tma

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Client: Anne Labovitz/122 Conversations
Project: MSP Airport Installation – News Release
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Waiting in Line at the MSP Airport? Look up!
Works by Minnesota Artist, Anne Labovitz
Add Color and Conversation to Terminals 1 and 2

Standing in security and ticketing lines at the [Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport](#) (MSP) is now a bit more enjoyable. Two dozen bold, colorful scrolls ranging in length from 30- to 45-feet in length now cascade down along the large construction wall of Terminal 1. In late October more scrolls will be installed in Terminal 2, to the right of the ticketing area. One might be tempted to describe the scrolls as a conversation starter, but, in fact, they are the culmination of *122 Conversations*.

The scrolls are part of Minnesota artist Anne Labovitz's recent international exhibition, [122 Conversations: Person to Person, Art Beyond Borders.](#)

Labovitz conceived *122 Conversations* as a means of using artmaking as a catalyst for social engagement across cultural and geographical boundaries. Her vision of connecting individuals makes MSP International Airport an apropos setting for the scrolls as it literally serves as an intersection point for people from across the globe.

“While reviewing Labovitz’s exhibit proposal, our steering committee was drawn to the possibility of engaging with global communities through visual arts, and the positivity that these bright pops of color would bring to many locations throughout MSP,” stated Ben Owen, Director, Arts@MSP, Airport Foundation MSP. “We’ve not previously used temporary construction barriers as exhibition spaces, and the ticketing lobbies are the perfect spaces to brighten our guest’s experience through artwork that celebrates diversity and bridges the gap between distant places, cultures, and peoples.”

Each of the scrolls is made up of multiple layers of acrylic paint on Tyvek® and reflect the artist’s visual interpretation of more than 60 interviews she conducted with individuals from Duluth, Minnesota, and its five sister cities: : Petrozavodsk, Russia; Rania, Iraqi Kurdistan; Växjö, Sweden; Thunder Bay, Canada; and Ohara Isumi-City, Japan. In addition to engaging individuals from each of those countries, interactive exhibitions featuring the scrolls were hosted in each of the sister cities as well. The ambitious initiative spanned six years, four continents, and six countries

The artist was honoured for the impact and success of *122 Conversations* earlier this year when the City of Duluth proclaimed April 27, 2019 [Anne Labovitz Day](#).

Organized by the [Tweed Museum of Art](#) and in collaboration with [Duluth Sister Cities International](#) and [University of Minnesota Duluth, School of Fine Arts](#), the project celebrates the combined 122 year relationship with Duluth’s five sister Cities.

The scrolls at Terminal 1 will be on display through the end of this year when the construction wall is removed. At Terminal 2, they will be on display through 2020.

For additional details about *122 Conversations: Person to Person, Art Beyond Borders* please visit: www.122Conversations.com

With the completion of *122 Conversations*, Labovitz has now launched her next endeavor that also seeks to create connection and creativity between communities through art – the [I Love You Institute](#).

The *I Love You Institute* is an artist-led site-specific project working with communities to creatively address today's world. It combines art making, social justice, radical kindness, and relational listening to normalize saying "I Love You" as an alternative to division and conflict.

About the Artist

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About Arts@MSP

Arts@MSP is a program of Airport Foundation MSP, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the experience and exceeding the expectations of travelers at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Airport Foundation MSP partners with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to bring artistic and cultural events to MSP, including live music, as well as exhibits featuring regional artists and commissioned art installations.

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