

Contact:

Tweed Museum of Art, Curator and Director
kbloom@d.umn.edu

Anne Labovitz
Producing artist
Email: anne@labovitz.com

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122 Conversations: Person to Person | Art Beyond Borders
International Exhibitions
by Anne Labovitz

[*122 Conversations: Person to Person | Art Beyond Borders*](#), organized by [Tweed Museum of Art](#) and [Artist Anne Labovitz](#) is an internationally traveling exhibition that reflects a five-year cultural, social engagement collaboration with [Duluth Sister Cities International \(DSCI\)](#). The project focuses on the culture and people of Duluth's Sister Cities. "122" honors the total amount of years being celebrated between DSCI and its Sister Cities during the duration of the project, and "*Conversations*" is inspired by relationships and interactions developed throughout the project. The artist conceived of this project as a catalyst for positive social change one human being at a time.

The artwork in the exhibition represents 60 Skype artist-led interviews involving ten residents from each of the six sister cities, including the mayor of each city. The large-scale paintings were created by Labovitz in her studio and are inspired by the spirited interview exchanges. The work chronicles the essence of human interaction—listening to each other and responding—through palimpsest paintings and video created from the shared experiences. Integral to the project is a participatory component where attendees are invited to add to a growing anthology of stories. People from each city are invited to contribute their responses as the show progresses. These contributions then travel with the show as it moves from each city onto its culminating venue at the Tweed Museum of Art in Duluth, May, 2018.

"Throughout Labovitz's career, Anne has demonstrated a growing interest in social-practice art. Now, she works to establish an artist-subject relationship that is based on direct engagement in a way that reveals, through her art making, a process of shared discovery," said Ken Bloom Director of Tweed Museum of Art.

The project travels next to Petrozavodsk, Russia to be exhibited at the [Petrozavodsk City Exhibition Hall](#) (May 25 – June 17, 2017); and then to Ohara Isumi-City, Japan (January, 2018) before its final destination at the Tweed Museum of Art, 2018. *122 Conversations* began its international journey to the five sister cities of Duluth, MN in September 2015 commencing at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery in Canada. From there the exhibit continued on to Rania, Iraqi Kurdistan at the University of Raparin (January 16 - March 31, 2017) and Växjö, Sweden at Växjö Konsthall (March 4 - April 1, 2017).

For more information, visit www.122Conversations.com, or the below links to recent news articles.

- http://122conversations.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Vaxjobladet_familjedag.pdf
- <http://www.smp.se/kultur-o-noje/vaxjoborna-i-den-interaktiva-varlden/>
- <http://kumd.org/post/radio-gallery-122-conversations#stream/0>
- <http://www.wdio.com/article/stories/s3842875.shtml>
- <http://www.wdio.com/article/stories/S3843380.shtml>
- <http://www.fox21online.com/news/local-news/artist-anne-labovitz-takes-on-sister-cities-exhibition/33978134>
- <https://artfullivingmagazine.com/inside-the-artists-studio-anne-labovitz/>

122 Conversations is made possible by many generous sponsors: Holiday Inn & Suites Duluth, Otis Magie Insurance, Security Jewelers, Duluth News Tribune, Visit Duluth, City of Rania Sister Cities Committee, and individual contributors.

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 6 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's passion for art education keeps her teaching within both public and private schools and offering workshops to artists of all ages. She is active in the Duluth art community and metro area. She is a member of the Board of Trustees for the [Walker Art Center](#) and formerly on the Colleagues Advisory Board at the [Weisman Art Museum](#). Labovitz 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 completing her Master of Fine Arts at [Transart Institute](#) in August 2017, an innovative program based in Berlin and New York.