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New Book Celebrates 16 Years of Tough Art at Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

Work by Three New Artists-in-Residence Now on Display

PITTSBURGH, PA (October 19, 2022)—Children's Museum of Pittsburgh will debut a new book on its Tough Art residency for emerging artists at the Children's Museum's Year in Art reception on October 19.

The new book, *Tough Art: Making Art as Strong as Kids*, by Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and authors Anne Fullenkamp and Claire Pillsbury, chronicles the 16-year residency that invites several emerging artists annually to create interactive artwork tough enough to withstand the enthusiasm of its youthful audience. The book is currently for sale in the Museum's Store.

"We are so pleased to release this book that chronicles 15 years of this unique artist residency as we debut the Tough Art exhibit and the wonderful pieces created by the artists we've worked with in year 16 – Guarav Petakar, Sarah Bowling and Max Spitzer," says Anne Fullenkamp, Senior Director of Museum Experiences at Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.

Here are some details on the 2022 Tough Art artists and their new pieces:



Guarav Petakar – Bloom

Walk up to this installation in the Museum's Art Studio where you can dispense (and later plant) six types of native wildflower seeds to improve the environment. As you place an envelope under a dispenser, seeds dispense through a channel and kinetic flowers bloom up above.



Guarav is a Boston-based Indian artist who creates kinetic sculptures and interactive installations using scientific data to focus on the world's ecological crisis. He has a graduate degree in media art from MIT Media Lab and has studied engineering and design in India.

Learn more about Guarav Petakar at:

www.gauravpatekar.in

Instagram: @patekargaurav



Sarah Bowling – Slime Time

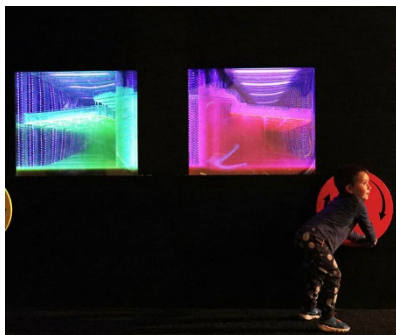
Watch as two sets of Day-Glo slime drip down and over a series of Plexiglas channels in this glowing exhibit. Turn the crank to pump the slime back up to the channels using a series of Archimedes screws.

Sarah is a sculptor and painter from Denver, CO, who is currently pursuing her MFA degree at Carnegie Mellon University. She has been awarded the Lea Simonds Fellowship and her work has been exhibited across the country.

Learn more about Sarah Bowling at:

www.sarahcbowling.com

Instagram: @_sarahbowling_





Max Spitzer – The Bagel

Experiment and explore how objects move across a handmade table animated by pressurized air blowing out of thousands of tiny holes on the surface. Why do some objects glide and others stay still?

Max is a sculptor and educator whose work explores the relationships between art objects and language. He teaches art locally at The Environmental Charter School. Max received his BFA in sculpture from the Rhode Island School of Design, and his MFA from Carnegie Mellon University, and his work has been exhibited in museums, galleries and classrooms nationally.



Learn more about Max Spitzer at:

maxspitzer.cargo.site

Instagram: @maxspitzer_

“It’s wonderful to have new interactive art for our visitors to experience every fall, and have artists, sometimes for the first time, see how their pieces engage children and hold up to their enthusiasm,” says Jane Werner, Executive Director of Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh.

The Tough Art artist residency began in 2006 and is one of the longest running artist residencies focused on interactive art for children in the museum and art world. It has welcomed more than 50 artists over 16 years to work collaboratively with Children’s Museum staff each summer to research, prototype and create artwork geared toward children in its content, design and durability.

2022 is the first time in two years that the Tough Art residency has been held in-person, after going virtual with the Tough Art @ Home program during the Museum’s closure due to the COVID pandemic.

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ABOUT CHILDREN’S MUSEUM OF PITTSBURGH

Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh provides innovative and inclusive museum experiences that inspire kindness, joy, creativity and curiosity for all learners. We forge connections with artists, community partners and neighbors to work on behalf of children, youth and families. Permanent hands-on, interactive exhibit areas include The Studio, Theater, Waterplay, Kindness Gallery, Backyard and MAKESHOP®.

Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh is open daily from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$16 for children 2-18 and senior citizens. Children under two are free. The Museum is located on Pittsburgh’s historic North Side at 10 Children’s Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. For more information, please call (412) 322-5058 or visit the Museum website, www.pittsburghkids.org. Follow us on [Facebook.com/pittsburghkids](https://www.facebook.com/pittsburghkids) / [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/pittsburghkids) and [Twitter @pghkids](https://twitter.com/pghkids)

ABOUT MUSEUMLAB

MuseumLab is the latest addition to Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh’s campus, opening April 2019 with exhibits and programs geared to youth and teens. Housed in the first library commissioned by Andrew Carnegie, MuseumLab sits adjacent to the Children’s Museum and features three exhibit spaces, a metalworking studio, media lab, unique climbing structure built around the former bookshelves and a host of commissioned artwork. Partner organizations that share space in MuseumLab includes Manchester Academic Charter Middle School, Allies for Children, Carnegie Mellon University’s Entertainment Technology Center and the University of Pittsburgh School of Education.