



The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Museum of Early Trades & Crafts announces new exhibit “THE BEE PROJECT”

Madison, NJ –The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts (METC) is excited to participate in THE BEE PROJECT, an innovative new exhibit that includes an outdoor installation. The exhibit opens April 1, 2023, and will run through June 30, 2023.

The Bee Project is a series of multi-dimensional modular structures that mimic the honeycomb pattern in beehives that will be installed on the museum’s front lawn. The structures are welded from carbon steel mesh in the shape of hexagons and painted yellow. These yellow hexagons will vary in height from 3 to 6 feet and be placed in various compositions, adding a vibrant and meaningful element into the fibers of the community.

The exhibit is an interactive and creative way to raise awareness about our fragile ecosystems and help ensure the future of pollinators. The structures will be a base for hand-crafted bees fashioned from reclaimed objects and recycled plastics that will be created by museum visitors, students in our Craft Club, fellow artists, and educators.

The Bee Project involves art, education, and science to draw attention to human-caused threats to the honeybee colonies and wild bees worldwide. The museum will be hosting art workshops and a series of lectures focusing on these topics.



“The Bee Project” installation in Historical Bohemian District in Cedar Rapids Iowa April-November 2021 Photograph by Brendan Pole

The concept was created by Elena Smyrniotis, a multimedia installation artist with a background in architecture. Elena is a Grant Wood Fellow in printmaking and Assistant Professor at the University of

Iowa. Her large installations investigate the relationship between architecture, space, and abstracted topography to underline environmental anxieties in a constructed landscape. Elena's most recent projects seek to address the climatic impact of melting ice caps and the progressive extinction of bees and other pollinators. She earned her MFA in printmaking from the University of Notre Dame, her MA in printmaking and drawing from the University of Saint Francis, and her MA in Architecture and Engineering from State Petroleum University, Ufa, Russia. Elena's experience at a global network of cultural institutions include a Fellowship at the Rome Global Gateway and cooperation with the Geographical Society of Italy; teaching art workshops in Dubai, OAE; partaking in workshops at The Painting School of Montmiral, France. Elena's exhibition record includes shows in the USA, Russia, Spain, and Turkey.

Museum entry is by voluntary donation while the Lower Level of the Museum is closed for construction.

About The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts

Explore American history with a focus on the life and stories of 18th- and 19th- century craftsmen and artisans. Drawing on its rich collection, METC is connecting the lives of people and their stories, while providing a bridge from the past to the future. Housed in a stunning Richardsonian Romanesque Revival building donated by D. Willis James to the people of Madison, NJ in 1900, METC offers something for visitors of all ages. Regular METC admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for seniors, students & children 6 and older, and free for members and children under 6. Family maximum admission \$15.00. METC is open Tuesday – Saturday 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. and Sunday Noon to 5 P.M. Closed Monday & Major Holidays.

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