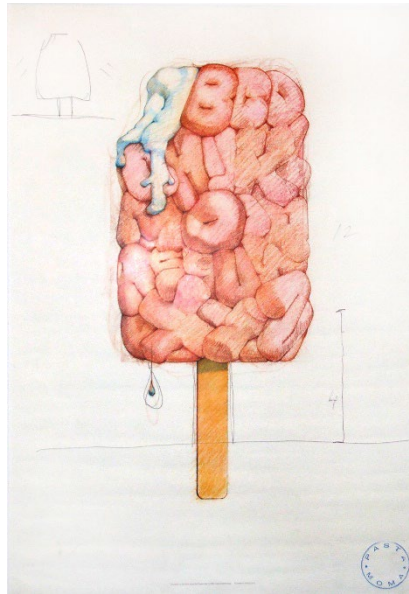




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MSU Broad Art Museum Exhibition Explores Public Art in the Greater Lansing Region

East Lansing, MI – As part of the 10th anniversary of the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad Art Museum), *Art Along the River, Grand* celebrates public art in the Greater Lansing region, grounded in the museum’s collections while also exploring cultural offerings in the area. The new exhibition is on view Feb. 12–Aug. 23, 2022, at the MSU Broad Art Museum, which itself is a remarkable work of public art designed by the late Zaha Hadid. The museum is free and open to the public Thursday–Sunday from 10am–6pm.

Public art takes many forms and is an important part of the landscape; it also often means different things to different people. To some, public art is a way to make a place more engaging, beautified with artistic flourishes that add color and vibrance. To others, public art activates space through community building, asking questions and inviting us to see things differently. Both are meaningful approaches and add to the creativity and quality of place. Public art can also create contentious spaces; not all art placed in the public realm is equally appreciated by all. Part of the impetus behind *Art Along the River, Grand* is to highlight and imagine ways that address these issues.

“The public art in the Greater Lansing region is an amazing resource for the communities that exist here, in part because of its very public nature; much of it is freely available and its enjoyment very accessible to us. This exhibition celebrates the public art in the region as well as the many art histories written into the local landscape,” comments Senior Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs Steven L. Bridges. “But important questions arise as well, especially when one considers the historical lack of diversity and inclusion present in the field of public art.”

Art Along the River, Grand takes up this subject and explores historical projects and proposals by artists like Michael Heizer and Claes Oldenburg. It also presents a critical look at the history of public art and its lack of diversity and inclusivity. In response, the exhibition highlights a number of collections and initiatives in the region that are dedicated to shifting the narrative around what public art is, who it is made by, and who it is for.

Several works and documents from the MSU Broad Art Museum collection lay the foundation for the *Art Along the River, Grand*. From there, visitors are invited to explore resources and tools that point to the great wealth of creativity and accessible public art that add to the cultural makeup of our cities and region. Whether exploring accessible public art on the MSU campus, like the MSU Broad Art Museum, or projects like ArtPath by the Lansing Art Gallery and Education Center, the exhibition provides a glimpse into the art that surrounds us here, where the waters of the Grand River and the Red Cedar connect us.

Exhibition Credits: *Art Along the River, Grand* is organized by the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University and curated by Senior Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs Steven L. Bridges, with assistance from Curatorial Research and Administrative Assistant Elijah Hamilton-Wray. Support for this exhibition is provided by the Eli and Edythe Broad Endowed Exhibition Fund.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad Art Museum) connects people with art through experiences that inspire curiosity and inquiry. Presenting exhibitions and programs that engage diverse communities around issues of local relevance and global significance, the MSU Broad advances the University values of quality, inclusion, and connectivity. Opened on November 10, 2012, the museum was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Zaha Hadid and named in honor of Eli and Edythe Broad, longtime supporters of the university who provided the lead gift for its creation.

Michigan State University has been working to advance the common good in uncommon ways for more than 150 years. One of the top research universities in the world, MSU focuses its vast resources on creating solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges, while providing life-changing opportunities to a diverse and inclusive academic community through more than 200 programs of study in 17 degree-granting colleges.

Image: Claes Oldenburg, *Alphabet in the Form of an Ice Cream Bar*, 1971; annotated 1972. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, gift of the artist.

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