

LABYRINTH OF CONSCIOUSNESS

ARTIST STATEMENT

Your life is a journey to experience. It is complex. Every step through it is a choice including all that which you experience through it that is beyond your control alongside all that which is within your control. You choose who, what, when and where you want and need to experience. You also choose all that which you do not want to experience. Most importantly, you choose how to experience it. Therefore, you choose whether or not to learn, and therefore, whether or not to grow from it. You choose how to navigate through it internally and externally. As you do so, you choose your internal dialogue, your beliefs, your perception and how to carry yourself every step of the way.

You choose your labyrinth. You steer the direction through your life. You choose every struggle you believe is necessary from where you stand in that moment as each experience arises. You choose how to empower yourself – you choose the power of your mind.

The lanterns, formerly known as Intention Bowls, originated unintentionally (or unconsciously) during my residency at Taos Clay in Taos, NM in 2017-2018. The intention during this part of my journey was to work as a resident artist. However, the course changed the moment I arrived. Through challenges that included advocating for the well being of myself and all other members of Taos Clay as well as an unintended pregnancy, the “Intention Bowl” was born in the midst of it all, symbolizing the delicacy of the meaning and metaphor of transformation, of life and death, through its formed vessel of an egg.

The metaphor continued to run its course after my departure from Taos and my return to Phoenix, AZ as I took on my current role as Lab Technician in Ceramics at Phoenix College. During the last 5 years the lanterns developed into what they are now from singular objects into a massive group that symbolizes the interconnectedness of all things – from the power of thought to experiencing daily life; how I’ve empowered myself through my own standards through attempts to overcome my struggles of past experiences and the growth they’ve triggered within me as I battle through anxiety and depression. Regardless of the objects I produce through any body of work in my 16 year ceramics career, it is a sacred space I provide for myself to articulate my own personal Labyrinth of Consciousness, the deeper meaning of my life experiences, and how I choose to continue the direction of my journey. It is a reflection of my growth from every experience thus far.

In April of 2020, while the world we live in embarked profound individual and collective challenges, Labyrinth of Consciousness was proposed.

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Like many other things during that time, it was put on hold while we moved through the first year of the pandemic.

Fast forward to 2021 to now, more personal and collective experiences revolving around life and death arose, triggering more profound growth.

From family, friends and colleagues as well as my position at Phoenix College, life transitioned faster than we could articulate and keep up with as time seemed to become a void of speed.

While the exhibition slowly grew into manifestation, embarking on many challenges that brought forth many transitions mirroring that of my job and my personal growth. The exhibition was rescheduled, redesigned 7 times while I personally experienced multiple close friends and family battling health scares and even death. My friend and brother, Rene Robles, Ceramics Technician during our time at Taos Clay together, was one of them, suddenly passing away just before the holidays of 2022.

Intermittently, my position at PC transitioned from part-time to full-time to now, discontinued as of July 1st of 2023 due to district policy changes that are beyond my control, that have nothing to do with me specifically or the Fine Art department.

All the while I struggled to find clarity in what LoC was morphing into, what the purpose was anymore and what my purpose is moving forward. Where is my life heading personally and professionally. My definition of community was threatened and partly robbed from me from a change in boundaries by a place that has provided a profound space of growth professionally, personally, communally and artistically. Despite this unfortunate and unforeseen change, I will not allow it to rob me of the community, respect or growth I have built and earned during my time here. It will not rob me of my family it welcomed me into despite my departure. It may temporarily negatively effect me, the program and everyone who embodies it in many ways but it will not rob us of our self-empowerment, of our dignity or of our community that we built and sustain together. My spirit will remain.

The audio for LoC significantly assisted me throughout the last 3 years of this project and all that transpired throughout life along the way.

The purpose of LoC is to inspire you to mindfully awaken to your self. What does it evoke within you? What does it change? What does it empower? How are you going to choose the direction of your growth from here?

All proceeds of LoC will benefit the Eric Fischl Gallery, a new endowment fund for the Fine Arts department at PC, Rene Robles Memorial Scholarship for the Art Institute of Chicago, and my offset costs and Art Insurance for the exhibition. It is not for-profit. It was never intended to be.

LABYRINTH OF CONSCIOUSNESS AUDIO LIST

REMIX PRODUCED BY KARL WILLIAM KLENK

SONGS INCLUDED:

“BLACK LIGHT” BY BOWERY ELECTRIC (OSYMYSO MIX)

“DREAMS” BY NUAGES FEATURING ALAN WATTS

“TO COLLAPSE INTO” BY BITCRUSH

“THE WEIGHT OF A FUTURE MUTATION” BY BITCRUSH

“ALL AT ONCE IT WAS ERASED” BY BITCRUSH

“THE 2AM EDIT” BY BITCRUSH

“THE DESTRUCTION OF SELF” BY BITCRUSH

“SLOW THRILLS” BY BOWERY ELECTRIC

PLAYLIST AVAILABLE ON SOUNDCLOUD:

“LABYRINTH OF CONSCIOUSNESS (GALLERY MIX)”
WARMERDAYS AHEAD