

# The Story of the Installation of Populace

by Kim Lulashnyk

**Saturday, June 10, temperature +35**

- **Laying out the Grid & Waiting for the Fence**

9:00 a.m. Hilde, Kirstin and Kim meet at the Museum park. We begin running the over 2000 linear feet of fluorescent line, secured with



landscaping u-pins, that mark every 1 square meter of the park. Up and down, bend and pull the line across the field, hammering at cross-sections and creating the grid upon which Hilde will lay down the

outlines of her design.

12:00 p.m. Modu-loc fencing arrives. In the heat, carrying 8' high metal panels, three installers take 3 hours to set up the 500 linear feet of metal safety fencing.



3:00 p.m. The fluorescent grid is finished and the fence secured.

**Sunday, June 11, temperature +38, windy**

- **Privacy Screen & Delivery of Rods**

7:30 a.m. Materials are collected from the Dymon Storage locker. A Headquarters tent is set up with tables and chairs ready for the

volunteers who will arrive to install pieces from Monday through Thursday.

8:30 a.m. Begin attaching the 1000 linear feet of rolled black landscape fabric onto the fence with plastic ties. The first layer is wrapped around the bottom 4' of the fence, then the job is



repeated at the top 4' of the fence. The wind surprises the fasteners as it blows the fabric like a sail and requires two people to control it. It

tears and it rattles the fence. Wind flaps are cut into the fabric. A call goes out to the Guild forum, the wind and the heat have slowed down the fabric installation and more volunteers are needed. Several Guild members brave the heat to lend a hand.

9:00 a.m. Hilde begins hammering pickets around the circumference of each bed. She will hammer 190 pickets that day. She also begins mapping out some of the structure of the garden by hammering in some rods. It's messy work, volunteers need gloves, the rods have a residue that covers them and some have rust. They will rust during the summer but that patina will add dimension to the public art piece.

2:00 p.m. The 9000 steel rods arrive on a Dymon truck.

Volunteers off-load, by hand, the rods through the fence across the length of the park. It takes all of Kirstin's family, Kim, Sarah and Glenn Hand to unload



the rods and palettes. The job is done in an hour – over 4000 lbs moved in the heat.

7:00 p.m. The privacy screen is up! The pickets



are hammered in! The first of the rods are in! The volunteers are exhausted but excited about the first wave of installation to come Monday morning.

### **Monday, June 12, temperature +38**

- **Day 1 of Installation**

7:30 a.m. Kirstin and Kim meet at Dymon storage and load up approximately 2000 roses, feathers and fleurs de lys. It fills the whole of the mini-van and some in a second vehicle.

9:00 a.m. Arrive at the park and begin off-loading the 50 boxes of sculptures to the park site. We meet Dinesh from TopView camera who will be shooting footage of the park with his time-lapse technology and then taking pictures from his drone in the air.

10:00 – 12:00 p.m. The first group of volunteers arrive. Duties are broken down into two parts: those that will hammer the rods into the ground as per Hilde's design and those that will unpack the boxes and roll and place the putty into the sculptures for mounting. The putty is the kind used in plumbing and it is rolled so that the kneading activates the material and then the coils are stuffed inside the hole of the sculpture. It's just like making pottery coils, interesting! However, not all sculptures were made to code, it was discovered: some roses did not have a centre seat, some feathers did not have wide enough quills and many lilies had

only two petals!

We tried to use all pieces as we could - nature is not perfect, either!



A group from Ridgemont High School, who were the first school group to participate in a making workshop from October 2016, came to install. They did a great job filling the sculptures with putty and cooling down with ice from the cooler since they couldn't drink or eat, it being Ramandan.

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Now excruciatingly hot, the second group of volunteers, undeterred, continue to hammer in rods and open boxes and fill sculptures with putty. Hilde directs the teams as to where to place the pieces – the feathers go in first and then there are the roses and fleurs de lys interspersed. Some of the first special edition gold pieces are placed in the centre of the garden. The Straw-Hat brigade worked both hammering in rods and organizing sculptures.



Neighbors, family, friends, Guild members and people who just heard about the project through Facebook all joined in the work of the day came out to install Populace. It was a tremendous community effort and the Ottawa Guild of Potters was at the centre of this effort.

Many Guild members came out with their families and worked hard in the heat.



4:00 p.m. The empty boxes are loaded back into my mini-van ready to be unloaded at the Dymon locker in the morning.

**Tuesday, June 13, temperature +25**

**• Day 2 of Installation**

7:30 a.m. Kirstin and I meet at Dymon storage,



unload the boxes from the van back into the storage unit and load up another 2000 boxed sculptures.

9:00 a.m. Arrive at the park and place the boxes full of sculptures on the pallets. Awaiting volunteers.

10:00 – 12:00 p.m. A class from Lisgar Collegiate arrive and some students are given the job to fasten down some of the privacy fencing that had blown torn away from their ties over the windy night.



A cold front moved in overnight and helped with the labour of bending and lifting and hammering and carrying.

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Many Guild members and their families participated, the youngest being

Geraldine’s son who did a great job filling some roses with putty and two



‘millennials’ who had made a sculpture at the public making

weekend and kept in touch with the project, came out to participate in the installation phase.



**Wednesday, June 14, 2017**

**• Day 3 of Installation**

7:30 a.m. Another 2000 pieces to the park!





10:00 a.m. The garden is starting to bloom! The media begins to arrive after French and English press releases have gone out to various media outlets. The park is now approximately half-way done. Visits from the Ottawa 2017 staff and Museum staff share in the joy of the installation process. Journalists from *Metroland News* and *The Ottawa Citizen* come out to interview and take photos of the volunteers.

**Thursday, June 15, 2017**

- **Day 4 of Installation**

7:00 a.m. Kirstin and Kim empty the storage locker of all remaining boxes. 3000 sculptures are brought to the park to take advantage of three groups of volunteers coming out to install the final rods.

9:00 – 12:00 p.m. A group from St. Patrick's Intermediate School arrive early. Students had also participated in the workshops where they made the sculptures themselves. These students worked hard filling sculptures with putty and hammering in rods.



1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Hilde works to create the design of the logo for Populace. Rods were cut in half by a friend of Kirstin's the night before to create the lower level of the logo: three equally-sized diamonds overlapping



representing the English peoples (red), the French peoples (blue), and Indigenous peoples (green)

who lived in the area at the time of confederation.

The fluorescent line is being removed from the grass, having only tripped people many, many times, with a special shout-out to Sarah Hand who toppled no less than thrice!



7:00 – 9:00 p.m. An evening finale installation session is planned to accommodate those individuals wanting to come out and participate who work during the day. Most of the afternoon people had worked quite hard and there were only a few hundred pieces left to install on the rods, completing the installation. Volunteers then worked together to install all the rope through the pickets that defined each of the sculpture beds. This rope acts as a barrier between the sculptures and the visitors. The installation was designed to be fully immersive so that people can walk through the pathways.



**Friday, June 16, 2017**

- **Day Before Opening Ceremonies**

The day is filled with the final preparations. Kim and Kirstin unload all the empty boxes from the previous installation day and stack the hundreds of empty boxes ready to receive the sculptures again in September! We meet CBC Radio with Ada at the site to provide an interview for television in French about the project. Barbara from CBC steps into the park through the gate and says “WOW!” After the interview, Kim and Kirstin drive to Gatineau to pick up our information plaque and surveillance signs which are then installed on site. Our 12’ Populace banners, purchased with the sponsorship funds from Tiree and Gowling WLG are installed. The privacy netting is taken down, rolled up and saved, all the lines are re-secured and all loose rods are pushed deeper into the soil. Sculptures closest to the pathways are glued onto the rods for extra security. The headquarters tent comes down as the exterior fence is taken away in the early evening.

Many onlookers, so curious to see the garden stop by and ask engaging questions. It’s hard to leave the installation unprotected for the first time, exposed and open, but we know it will show its beauty all summer.



Editors Note:

**Thank You Kim, Kirstin & Hilde for an amazing accomplishment!**