

Good Hart Artist Residency artist-in-residence shares her story of disability with local community

Artist Genevieve Ramos doesn't shy away from telling people about the worst night of her life. That's what she did last Thursday at Crooked Tree Arts Center as she spoke to a rapt crowd listening to her art talk. When she was 20, Ramos sustained serious injuries in a car accident which left her unable to speak or walk. Art therapy helped enormously and changed the course of her life. Over a decade later, Ramos can speak (with difficulty) and walk (with a cane) but with paintbrush in hand, she's able to raise disability awareness and tell her story in a new way.

"It wasn't the literal loss of voice and physical abilities that informed my work," Ramos

says. "Instead, what I discovered was a way to express my experience of being a woman, a daughter of a Mexican immigrant and then a person with disabilities; these are elements of what my work is today and the narratives it tells, though now I'm deeply moved by community in addition to these elements."

Ramos is the artist-in-residence at Good Hart Artist Residency this month, as part of the residency's Elevating Diverse Voices program, which holds a residency each year for an artist from a marginalized group in recognition of the value these voices offer to our understanding of the human experience. This year the

program's focus is disability. Ramos was nominated along with others by curator Matt Bodett, a disabled artist in Chicago, and selected by a panel of disabled artists in order to ensure the decision-making power rested solely within the disabled community.

Through a partnership with Crooked Tree Arts Center and Challenge Mountain, Ramos gave an art talk at CTAC followed by a group art project designed to bring the community together to share in an experience of expression and connection. Ramos painted three "power to the people" fists and invited community members to collage around the painting as a way of adding

their voices to the message.

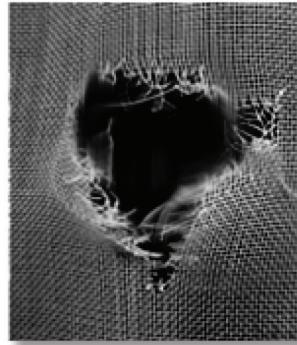
The Good Hart Artist Residency brings artists, writers, and composers from all over to Good Hart for an opportunity to spend time working on their art. The Residency partners with area nonprofits to bring a range of arts events led by resident artists to the local community.

Pictured at right: Good Hart Artist Residency artist-in-residence Genevieve Ramos. (Courtesy photo)

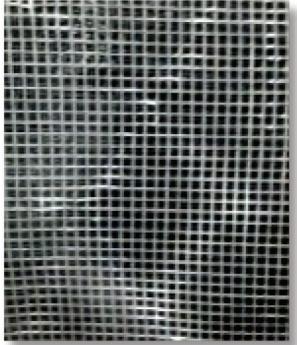


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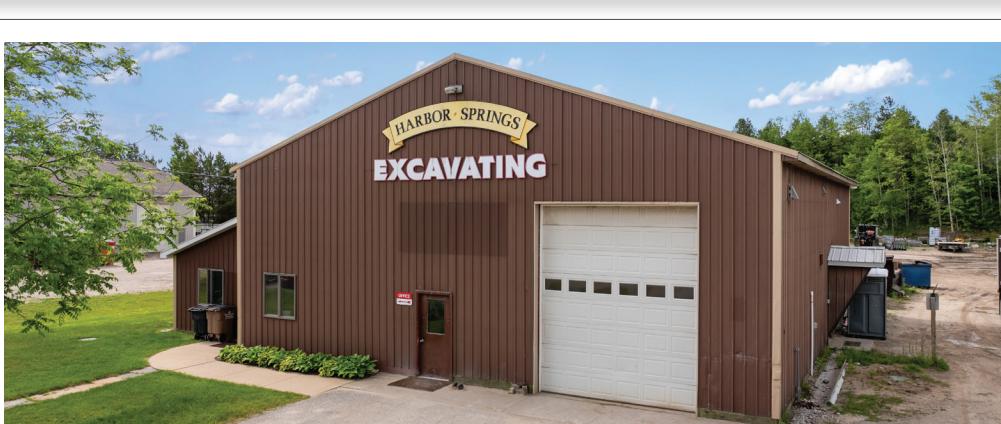
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