

PRESS RELEASE
EMERGENCY NEON
Craig Kraft

Honfleur Gallery presents a solo exhibition by internationally acclaimed light sculptor Craig Kraft.

Kraft, a Smithsonian instructor for the past 24 years, has used neon light to create monumental outdoor light sculptures, such as Vivace sited at the Watha T. Daniel Library in DC, but now turns his attention to pressing social and political issues such as ignored and unaccounted for missing children, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Trump in American politics, and finding HOPE against all odds.

Neon is used not only because of its attention-grabbing power but also because it is a call to action! Because of this influential medium, the DC Police Department has chosen Kraft as a strong partner to display neon Missing Children posters and highlight the issue throughout the city. The project, launched in late 2021, was born after Kraft watched a television special on missing Indigenous people in the southwest region of the US. This moved Kraft to consider the disproportionate amount of media attention that White Missing persons receive in comparison to other races.



The New York Times published a photo-series by photographer Andre Wagner in August of this year, documenting what Wagner referred to as the theme of Hope in Anacostia, the neighborhood in Southeast Washington D.C. where Kraft's studio is located.

Kraft simultaneously has a neon project underway, highlighting the elusive nature of hope as something that is hard to find amidst the chaos, conflict, and struggles of everyday life, but that can be transformative when found in unexpected places.



Kraft Studio will roll out a series of glowing white HOPE signs in diverse parts of the metropolitan area in the coming year. Viewers will be challenged to find them, take photos, and participate in a city-wide effort to publicize humanitarian projects in their communities.

Kraft's exhibition, Emergency Neon, opens December 9th 6PM-9PM and will be up through Jan 28th of 2023 at 218 West Saratoga Street in Baltimore. There will be an artist talk on opening night, December 9th, at 7PM.