



ARTIST STATEMENT

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, Climate Change, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Trump in American politics, and finding HOPE against all odds.



Since 1983, the common thread in Kraft's work has been neon light. He has used neon for its versatility: long-lasting industrial strength, vast possibilities of color, and its willingness to be bent into almost any shape or form. It is the contradictory nature of light: tangible but intangible, substantial but insubstantial that draws the viewer into the artwork. It is, after all, how we see things. Light is in constant flux; it begs questions about perception and importance.