

FSA Open Studio: Karen M. Brummund

Karen Brummund, "Performing Harmony," 2023. Charleston, South Carolina.

Welcome to FSA's artist-in-residence, the studio of in-process work and afterimages from artist Karen Brummund's project, "Performing Harmony." In this studio, you will find artworks from the community build, the video projection, as well as sketches made by the artist on a daily basis. Using drawing to translate the particularity of space and place, Brummund led two "community builds" in Charleston where participants of all ages worked together to make imperfect, unfinished dark cubes and build broken grids. This experiential-collective art making involved stacking and balancing handmade paper objects by each volunteer, which Karen films and brings back to her studio. In the video, Brummund focuses on the posture of the hands, as they balance the vertical, horizontal, and diagonals of the grid.

Reflecting conceptions of play, imperfection, and wonder, Brummund overlays and distills the individual photographs into a consolidated afterimage. This piece is an encounter with process as presence and light. Mirrored on parallel aisles, this video was projected in *situ* inside the sanctuary of Grace Church Cathedral during the annual Spirited Brunch festival. At night, this video was projected on the exterior surfaces of Grace Church Cathedral. Brummund used a digital projector to flood the north, south, east, and west facades of the cathedral with the overlapping hands, exploring the concave and the convex architectural forms. This improvisational projection explored scale and softness as ephemeral street art. Printed images inside Brummund's studio document the unique event.

Karen Brummund's projects on paper, light, and the grid, have been created in collaboration with communities all over the world. Her artwork has been commissioned by individuals and organizations including Pezo von Ellrichshausen Architects in Chile, the Sirius Art Centre in Ireland, and the Brady Art Centre in London. She created architectural installations for museums like the Burchfield Penney Art Center and the Everson Museum of Art as well as festivals like Atlanta Celebrates Photography. She received an artist fellowship in Architecture and Environmental Art from New York Foundation for the Arts and is a finalist for the 2023 Laguna Art Prize in Venice, Italy. Upcoming, video from this series will be projected at Digital Graffiti Art Festival in Alys Beach, Florida in May 2023.