

# Press Release

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The American Dream Project  
Artists LigoranoReese Melt The American Dream



*The American Dream*, 2016 Transformer Station, Cleveland, Ohio, rendering by LigoranoReese

At 12 :30 PM on Tuesday, July 19, 2016, artists **Nora Ligorano** and **Marshall Reese** unveil a 4,000-pound sculpture carved in ice of the words *The American Dream* on the grounds of **Transformer Station** located at **1460 W 29th Street** in Cleveland Ohio. Their public art work spans the **Republican National Convention** and **Democratic National Convention** to focus on issues of equality and the erosion of opportunity in society.

The artists intend for *The American Dream*, measuring 30 feet wide and 5 feet tall, to melt away. They photograph and film the installation's disappearance streaming it on the internet in real-time (<http://meltedaway.com>). According to Ligorano, "Melting ice as a material is a perfect medium to show the disappearance of equality and opportunity. This is not specific to one party. Our country is in crisis." The artists are doing a second version with the same words on July 25, 2016, at Independence Mall in Philadelphia during the Democratic Convention.

The artists call the piece *The American Dream Project* and have partnered with **The City Club of Cleveland** to host a series of panels at Transformer Station on the same day as the sculpture to discuss the ramifications of the disappearance of the American Dream. The talks include community leaders and other artists in Cleveland during the convention.

"We make art for social change. This artwork is sculpture, installation, performance, and an internet event. We combine all of these media to activate public space to discuss and to inspire people to think about ways to make society more equitable and fair." Marshall Reese says.

The project follows earlier ice projects by the artists, which they call "temporary monuments." In 2008, the artists installed ice sculptures of the words *Democracy* at the political conventions, *Economy* on the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Depression, and *Middle Class* in 2012 in Charlotte and Tampa. These ice sculptures materially underscore the impact of social and political forces on the country.

Tweeting @melted\_away, #ligoranoreese, #publicart, #AmericanDreamProject #meltingopportunity, #July19

## LIGORANOREESE

**Nora Ligorano** and **Marshall Reese** collaborate as **LigoranoReese**. Their artwork examines society through images and sound from print, television, internet, and radio. They have exhibited at the Biennial of Contemporary Art, Cartagena, Columbia, Catharine Clark Gallery, Kent Fine Art, Portland Art Museum, MIT MediaLab, Museum of Arts & Design, New York Public Library, and Lincoln Center. They have received funding from the Jerome Foundation, Puffin Foundation, NYFA, NYSCA, NEA, and been in residence at the MacDowell Colony, Montalvo Arts Center, and Djerassi Resident Artists Program. They are represented by Catharine Clark Gallery.