

LigoranoReese

In Cleveland, the American Dream Melts Away

By the Afi-Odelia Scuggs
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MARSHALL REESE
ICE-INSTALLATION ARTIST



A screenshot of a video piece produced by the New Yorker for this article.

On July 19th, a four-thousand-pound ice sculpture spelling out the words “The American Dream” was unveiled at Cleveland’s Transformer Station, blocks away from the site of the Republican National Convention. The sculpture, which was thirty feet wide and five feet tall, melted away throughout the day.

Asked what the American dream meant to them, passersby often spoke of equal opportunity and financial security. “Maybe it’s time to have the American dream disappear, because maybe it’s not serving anybody,” Marshall Reese, who created the sculpture with Nora Ligorano, said.

Ligorano and Reese did similar sculptures in 2008 and 2012, spelling out “Democracy” and “Middle Class,” respectively. A new “American Dream” installation will be on display in Philadelphia, at the Democratic National Convention, on July 25th.