

ARTIST STATEMENT

I've been closely following the recent rise in artwork destruction - from the climate activists, to the recent Florida incident with Hunt Slonem's "Thunderbunny" sculpture.

I might lack some objectivity due to my own experience back in 2016, when an unknown assailant vandalized and permanently damaged one of my paintings at the University of Washington - which had a profound impact on me.

I was fortunate that *The Stranger* picked up the story, which received some local attention, and helped spread awareness.

In 2023 it happened again - and something I made was vandalized and destroyed. I've decided to take a more proactive tactic this time, and dedicate this show to it.

"En Titled" is an interactive, collaborative exhibit with a very talented artist Dana Blume, in which the audience is invited to either physically destroy or save drawings on display. Visitors are allowed to take one of my original drawings for free - thus salvaging it from demise - or crumple it and aim for the hoop.

This maker-permissible, performative action will ultimately arrive at the exhibit's meaning via a network of actions, demonstrating current attitudes - helping erase lines between message/messenger and creator/creation. The exhibit will additionally amplify the idea of authentic first-person perspective and current desire for audience participation.

What criteria will determine the likelihood of audience participation and the fate of a drawing? Will it be the subject matter, skill level, artist's presence, political views, or some other factor altogether.

I will continue creating new drawings throughout the span of the exhibit - therefore stop by the gallery and save it from its potential demise - because somebody else might destroy it.