

Ulrich Museum of Art

Annabel Daou: DECLARATION

January 27 - May 7, 2022 | Harvey D. Grace Memorial Chapel

Open 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. Monday-Friday | Wichita State University



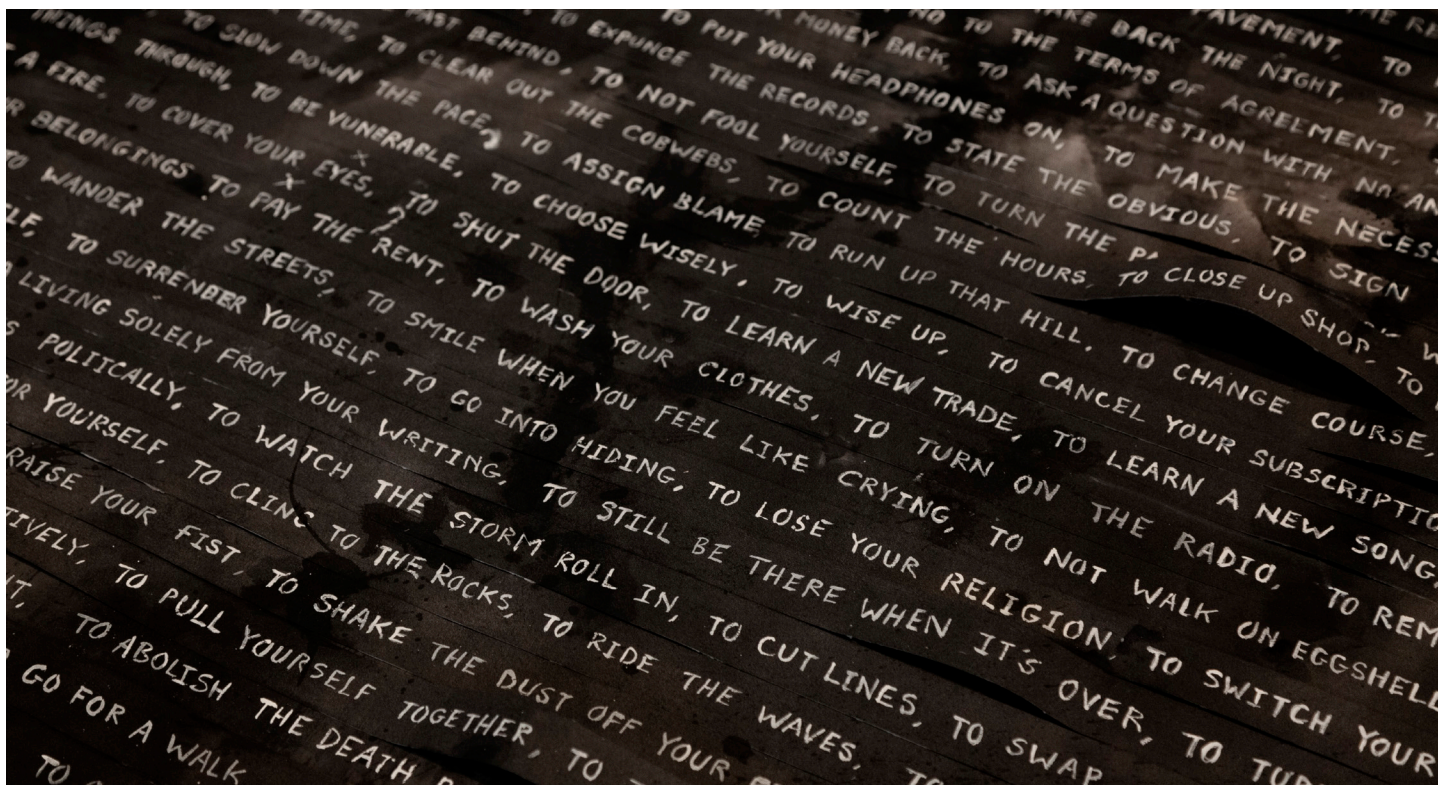
About the Project

In 2019-2020, the artist Annabel Daou created and exhibited a 20-foot text-covered sculptural scroll, *WHEN IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS*, titled in an allusion to the Declaration of Independence. The text for the scroll was sourced collectively and contained everyday expressions, as well as lines borrowed, stolen, or gifted by other artists, poets, writers, and activists.

In 2020, Daou created *DECLARATION*, a 25-minute audio piece, in collaboration with the sound artist Miriam Schickler. The work features Daou's voice reciting phrases from the scroll as first-person actions, interspersed with sounds of both peaceful city life and chants from recent protests in Chile, Lebanon, and other places around the world. The Ulrich Museum of Art acquired the piece in 2021.

According to Daou, her work deals “with yearnings and anxieties that are both personal and political” and involves “mining the expressive possibilities of ordinary words and phrases in order to reveal unexpected intimacies between individual and collective experience.” In *DECLARATION*, the anonymous narrator's actions range from the mundane to the momentous while her emotions run the gamut from joy to rage, from doubt to despair. The work is a moving reminder of the feminist maxim that the personal is political and an exploration of the way each one of us has the power to contribute to large-scale social movements through a wide range of possible actions. Fittingly, the installation is being presented in the Harvey D. Grace Memorial Chapel, an architectural gem in the heart of the WSU campus built in 1963 to be a space “open to all creeds and all races of people.”

Annabel Daou: DECLARATION is part of Ulrich Connections, a program to create partnerships with campus or community organizations and produce exhibitions and events that allow us to reach new audiences and increase access to our collection. We are grateful to the Rhatigan Student Center and particularly Maria Ciski, Director of University Event Services, for their collaboration on this project.



Annabel Daou, *WHEN IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS* scroll, 2019-2020. © Annabel Daou. Courtesy of the artist and signs and symbols, New York.

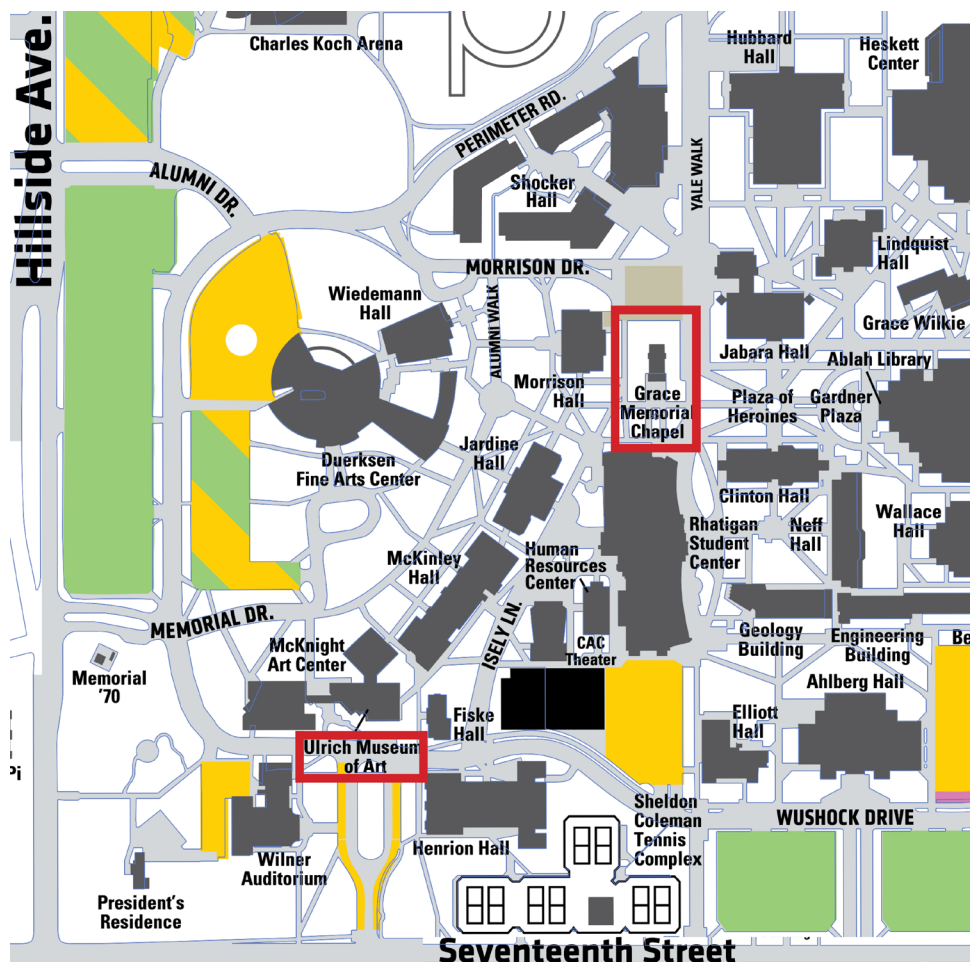


Annabel Daou (b. 1967) is a Lebanese American artist. Born and raised in Beirut, she currently resides in New York City. Her work takes place at the intersection of writing, speech, and nonverbal communication, and her artistic practice incorporates the creation of sculptures, drawings, sound pieces, videos, and performances. Her poetic conceptual pieces often mine history and use language to empower audiences in the present moment. Daou was most recently a Pollock-Krasner resident at the International Studio & Curatorial Program in New York City in 2019-20. Daou's work has been shown at

The National Museum of Beirut; The Park Avenue Armory, New York; KW, Berlin; The Drawing Room, London; and The Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin. Public collections in which her work can be found include the Baltimore Museum of Art; the Menil Collection; Brooklyn Museum; the Vehbi Koç Foundation, Istanbul; and the Yale University Art Gallery.

Getting There

Grace Memorial Chapel is located just north of the Rhatigan Student Center (RSC) on the WSU campus. The nearest public parking is available in the RSC Parking Garage. For more information on the location of the chapel and campus parking, please visit ulrich.wichita.edu or call the Museum.



This exhibition and associated programs are generously supported in part by a grant from the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

The Ulrich is grateful for the ongoing support of Salon Circle members who make the Museum's exhibitions and programs possible through their Salon memberships.

We also receive funding for general operational support from the City of Wichita and Wichita State University.



Related Public Programs:

Artist Talk

Annabel Daou: *Being Numerous*

Tuesday, April 5 | Ulrich Museum of Art

5:30 P.M. Reception | 6:00 P.M. Program | Free and open to all

Annabel Daou will discuss the sound installation *DECLARATION* and other works in which multiple voices, responses, or participation are involved.

Artist Performance

Annabel Daou: *What can I do? What should I do? What will I do?*

Wednesday, April 6 | Location TBD

Please check ulrich.wichita.edu/programs for more information.

12:30 P.M. | Free and open to all

For this participatory sound project, artist Annabel Daou invites the public to create a collaborative manifesto for our current moment. Audience answers to the three questions in the title of the performance will reflect personal, political, or social themes with no restriction on topics addressed. **We strongly encourage you to submit a response.** All responses will be anonymous and will be read by the artist. For more information and to submit responses visit

<https://www.signsandsymbols.art/performances/what-can-i-do-what-should-i-do-what-will-i-do>

or email icanishouldiwill@gmail.com.



Ulrich Museum of Art

Wichita State University

Mon.-Sat.: 11am-5pm | Closed Sundays, University & Major Holidays | Free Admission | 316.978.3664

@ulrichmuseum | ulrich.wichita.edu | 1845 Fairmount | Wichita, KS | 67260-0046