

August 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**122 Conversations International Exhibitions
Orchestrated by American Artist Anne Labovitz to Commence in September 2015**

[122 Conversations](#) led by [American Artist Anne Labovitz](#) will begin on September 10, 2015 at [Thunder Bay Art Gallery](#) (1080 Keewatin St, Thunder Bay ON P7B 6T7) at 7:30 p.m. This free, public exhibition commences the three-year cultural, social engagement collaboration of [Duluth Sister Cities International \(DSCI\)](#), [Tweed Museum of Art](#) and [University of Minnesota Duluth's School of Fine Arts](#) that focuses on the culture and people of Duluth's Sister Cities. The Thunder Bay exhibition will be available for public viewing from September 11 – October 18, and then will travel to four other countries throughout the next three years for public exhibitions prior to culminating in Duluth, Minn. USA in 2017.

The exhibition paintings created by Labovitz are based on conversations and exchanges with more than 60 participants, including the mayor of each of Duluth's Sister Cities through face-to-face or Skype interviews. Free, public exhibitions will be held in each city, along with artist led education seminars for seniors, children, students and artists. People from each city are invited to contribute their responses as the show progresses to its culminating venue at the Tweed Museum of Art in Duluth.

"122" honors the total amount of years being celebrated between DSCI and its Sister Cities during the duration of the project, and "Conversations" is inspired by relationships and interactions developed throughout the project. The years being celebrated and exhibition timeline are as follows: Thunder Bay, Canada - 35 years (September 10, 2015); O'hara Isumi-City, Japan - 25 years (Spring 2016); Rania, Iraqi Kurdistan - 2 years (Summer 2016); Petrozavodsk, Russia - 30 years (Fall 2017); Växjö, Sweden - 30 years (Winter 2017); and Duluth, Minn. (Winter 2017).

"Throughout Labovitz's career she has demonstrated a growing interest in social practice art by working to establish an artist-subject relationship that is based on direct engagement with her subject in a way that would reveal through her art making process a shared discovery," said Ken Bloom Director of Tweed Museum of Art.

For more information, visit www.122Conversations.com, or the below links to recent news articles.

- <http://www.wdio.com/article/stories/s3842875.shtml>
- <http://www.wdio.com/article/stories/S3843380.shtml>
- <http://www.fox21online.com/news/local-news/artist-anne-labovitz-takes-on-sister-cities-exhibition/33978134>

122 Conversations is made possible by many generous sponsors: Holiday Inn & Suites Duluth, Otis Magie Insurance, Security Jewelers, Duluth News Tribune, Visit Duluth and individual contributors.

About the Artist

A native of Duluth, [Anne Labovitz](#) currently lives and works in St. Paul, Minn. In 2013, she was recognized with [Duluth Depot Foundation's](#) Artist Award as an artist whose distinguished career has made significant contributions to the development of both artists and the arts. Her paintings are part of the permanent collections at the [Tweed Museum of Art](#) in Duluth, Minn., the [Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#) in La Jolla, Calif., and the [International Gallery of Portrait](#) in Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Labovitz is represented by [Burnet Gallery at Le Meridien Chambers Minneapolis](#).

Labovitz's passion for art education keeps her teaching within both public and private schools and offering workshops to artists of all ages. She is active in the Duluth art community and metro area. She is a member of the Board of Trustees for the [Walker Art Center](#) and formerly on the Colleagues Advisory Board at the [Weisman Art Museum](#).

Labovitz received her degree in art and art education from Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn. In addition, she has trained in studios in Italy, New Mexico, New York, Massachusetts, and North Carolina. Labovitz is currently undertaking her Master of Fine Arts at [Transart Institute](#), an innovative programme based in Berlin and New York.

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