

Larry Cook Jr.



Larry Cook Jr., a conceptual and installation artist who has shown at the National Gallery of Art, MOMA, the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, and the Baltimore Museum of Art, among other institutions, is creating one of his signature backdrop installations at Sky Stage. The artist employs aspects of pictorial realism and fantasy to explore broader issues of status, individualism, and realism in black culture.

Cook was commissioned by the Frederick Arts Council to create an art installation at Sky Stage, 59 South Carroll Street. His work was on display from June – December 2020.

Artist Statement:

My work explores how the pose and hand-painted backdrops circulate within vernacular prison and club photographs, often re-imagining them both through the process of collage, digital manipulation, and staged photography. My practice is rooted in examining prison and club photography aesthetics and their relationship to the photographic archive. Through the cultural symbol of the pose and backdrops, I aim to redefine concepts of escapism and freedom through a collective Black experience within American society.

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