



Thomas Faison
Phase Change
January - December 2019
FAC's Pop-Up Gallery at 11 W Patrick St



The evolution of Thomas Faison's installation, "Phase Change" brought together elements from each prior piece and united the work as a whole.

During 2019, Faison used water in its different states of matter as a vehicle to develop a broad narrative. Through a combination of sculpture and film, the installation journeyed through water, steam, and ice as it examined control, powerlessness, destruction, becoming, transformation, and hope.

Act I began with water in its liquid form. A stream simulator showed an explicit disaster, a miniature city destroyed by a river. But throughout the ruin, voices rang out in a documentary, sharing cultural, social, and political relationships within the hydrosphere.

Act II, steam, was approached its ideas more symbolically. It explored the process of re-evaluation and transformation through a video opera in which three millennials leave ruins of the city and return to nature to engage in simple acts of attentive labor. They meditated on becoming in an explicit form by watching a pot boil, steam billowing out of the top. The videos were housed in an old boat on top of the crumbled pile of brick that once held the city. Act II of the exhibition also includes photographs by artist Ashley Hoffman.

After presenting a disaster in Act I and reckoning with it in Act II, Act III, "ice," examined a way forward. The exhibit featured an icy, brick staircase which, rather than ending at a destination, exploded with brick hung in the air. Complemented this futile path was an 8mm film of children in water. The children built, destroyed, and played,

demonstrating a creative freedom as a possible answer to this grand tragedy.

[Frederick News Post](#) A new pop-up gallery from the Frederick Arts Council is also a homecoming for a longtime Frederick artist, January 2, 2019

[Frederick News Post](#) Phase Change: Act II

[Frederick News Post](#) Local artist Ashley Hoffman joins "Phase Change," a year-long installation at the Frederick Arts Council Gallery



Figure 1 Phase Change: Act I

Figure 2 Snippet from Phase Change: Act II





Figure 3 Photograph by Ashley Hoffman as collaborative artist with Thomas Faison on "Phase Change"



Figure 4 Phase Change: Act III