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Murals At The Currier Honor Manchester's Working Class Roots

By [PETER BIELLO \(/PEOPLE/PETER-BIELLO\)](/PEOPLE/PETER-BIELLO) & [LEILA GOLDSTEIN \(/PEOPLE/LEILA-GOLDSTEIN\)](/PEOPLE/LEILA-GOLDSTEIN) • SEP 19, 2018



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(http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/nhpr/files/styles/x_large/public/201809/nhpr-ethan-murrow-02.JPG).

CREDIT PETER BIELLO/NHPR

This week, the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester is welcoming art-lovers to its gallery for a new show (<http://currier.org/ethan-murrow-hauling/>). Boston-based artist and Tufts Professor Ethan Murrow has created wall drawings and a sculpture honoring Manchester's working class roots. Last week, ahead of the show's opening, he and a team of art students put the finishing touches on the drawings.

[Editor's note: We highly recommend listening to this story.]



Listen
0:00

NHPR's Peter Biello talks to artist Ethan Murrow at the Currier Museum of Art about his new exhibit.

On the gallery walls, the 42-year-old artist and these students have drawn murals about fifteen feet high. The images are of piles of tools and people pulling, pushing, and lifting them. The show is called "Hauling."



(http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/nhpr/files/styles/x_large/public/201809/nhpr-ethan-murrow-01.JPG).

Ethan Murrow works on one of the murals at the Currier Museum of Art using a Sharpie marker.

CREDIT PETER BIELLO/NHPR

The artist, Murrow, wears a brace on his forearm, and it's easy to see why: each one of these enormous murals is composed of thin strokes of the common black Sharpie pen.

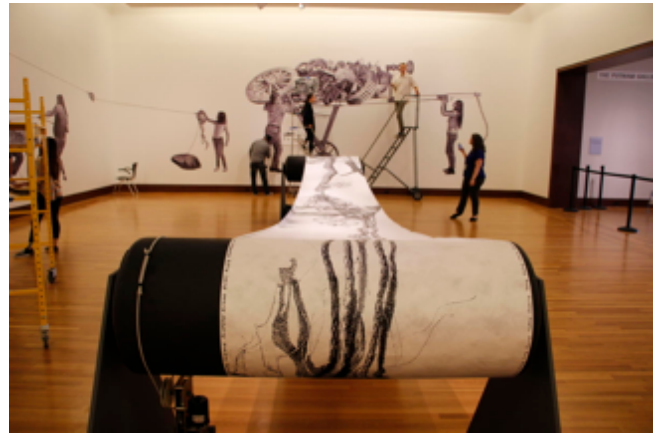
"I've used Sharpie in a bunch of different wall drawings. It does have a staying power that I'm attracted to. It has a nice rich black, and it's relatable, hopefully to people who come in," Murrow says.

Those who come in will also encounter a conveyor belt made of Tyvek paper, a building material. On that paper is a 53-foot

Sharpie drawing of a rope, and words referring to work: cutting, framing, binding, carving. The belt slowly rolls, powered by a rotisserie chicken motor.

Murrow says the show comments on parts of the Manchester economy that have come and gone, such as the native fishing communities, colonial farmers, and the textile mills. "Hauling" is meant to honor Manchester, a city where, through the changes, work has been the constant.

For more of Ethan Murrow's thoughts on the exhibit, what he calls a "subjective history" of Manchester, listen to the audio version of the story above. NHPR's Peter Biello spoke with the artist as he finalized the installation.



(<http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/nhpr/file/hauling-01.JPG>)

A scroll drawing of rope runs on a loop at the center of the exhibit, an ode to manual labor in the Queen City.

CREDIT PETER BIELLO/NHPR

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