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# Five Monumental Art Projects That Happened Thanks to Kickstarter (and You)

By Vivien Lee • 05/02/19 2:35pm

In the last decade, crowdfunding technology has revolutionized the arts community by taking some of the decision-making over who gets funded out of private board meetings and into the hands of the hoi polloi. Where grant competitions once limited the range of artists given access to platforms and resources, Kickstarter Arts has helped raise more than \$100 million since 2009 to diversify the realm of storytelling in visual arts, globally. And this week, as the site celebrates 10 years in existence, evidence is only mounting that their presence in the art world will continue to gain steam.

Public arts non-profit Creative Time launched a project this week that speaks to the subject of democratization that Kickstarter could be called an example of. Called *Privilege of Escape*, it is a collaboration with artist Risa Puno, who will create an interactive escape room challenging issues surrounding social dynamics. “Traditional funding models continue to support a similar group of artists year after year, but Kickstarter allows for creative independence. If you have an idea, mobilize your community and you can make it happen,” Patton Hindle, Kickstarter’s director of arts, told Observer. “The platform invites diversity in the types of projects...and as we say on staff, “fuck the monoculture.”

For groups who’ve successfully relied on the platform and have even returned to it, like Creative Time, art and action are inherently cinched. Crowdfunding, after

all, teaches communities how to engage meaningfully—a mentality that aligns with civic participation. Looking back to celebrate their 10 year anniversary, these five visual art projects have all made history thanks to Kickstarter and the everyday people of the internet like you.



Pope.L, *Flint Water* at What Pipeline, installation view. Pope.L/What Pipeline

### *Flint Water* at What Pipeline: \$17,803 Raised Led by artist Pope.L, 2017

Teaming up with the gallery What Pipeline in Detroit, Chicago-based conceptual artist Pope.L created an installation, performance and artistic intervention that called attention to the Flint Water crisis using funds from his Kickstarter campaign. Water, contaminated with lead, E.coli and listeria, was purchased from the homes of Flint residents to be bottled and sold at the gallery as part of a performance installation educating audiences about the ongoing crisis. Proceeds from the exhibition were donated to the United Way of Genessee County and Hydrate Detroit to help mitigate the crisis and advocate for affordable water laws in both Flint and Detroit.