Proposal – Faces

Public Pool

December 4, 2021 – January 22, 2022

Masks have been a way for humans to visualize, reimagine, and assert our identities throughout our history. We can assume the attributes of the creatures in our world, borrowing the powers of animals and birds. We can take on the role of gods by creating their faces for ourselves, and monsters as an escape. Masks can also hide our identities, offering a form of protection through disguise, and self-care. They have been used for ritual and celebration, a primal response in ancient representations of human, animal, and other heads and faces.

Scott Northrup and Mary Fortuna are long-time friends with deep roots in the Detroit art community. They share a fascination with masks, heads, and faces, and are exploring them in all materials as a means of divining a way to live in what feels like a fractured and uncertain world.

Northrup is a multimedia artist, writer, and professor at the College for Creative Studies.

Fortuna is an artist with a long history as a curator, exhibition director, and arts administrator. She has maintained ties with the Detroit community since moving to Traverse City in 2016.