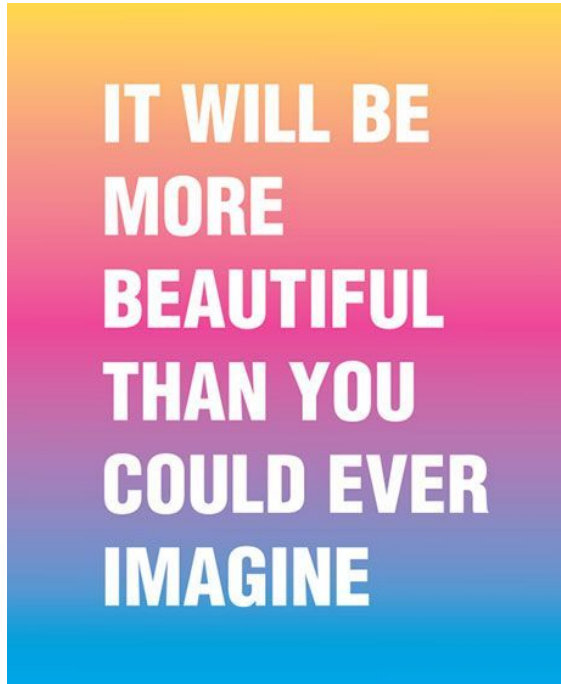


ROOT DIVISION ANNOUNCES MURAL DEBUT WITH THE ESTATE OF SUSAN O'MALLEY



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Location: Root Division's Outer Wall
1131 Mission St. San Francisco, CA 94103

Mural Installation: April 22-26, 2019

Mural Unveiling: Saturday, May 11, 1-4 p.m. alongside Root Division's Youth Education Showcase "New Growth: Shared Stories"

Root Division is excited to announce a new mural, "It Will Be More Beautiful Than You Could Ever Imagine," with The Estate of Susan O'Malley. The mural will be painted on the outside of Root Division's 1131 Mission Street building.

What advice would your 80-year-old self give you?

That's the question artist Susan O'Malley asked ordinary people of all ages at farmers' markets, senior centers, and other public spaces in the San Francisco Bay Area. In her book, *Advice from My 80-Year-Old Self: Real Words of Wisdom from People Ages 7 to 88* (Chronicle Books, 2016), O'Malley compiled their answers into vibrant text-based images. From a prompt to do things that matter to your heart, to a reminder that it's okay to have sugar in your tea, these are calls to action and words to live by—heartfelt, sometimes humorous, and always fiercely compassionate.

O'Malley wrote, "I make art that connects us to each other." O'Malley's creative dedication to interconnectedness aligns strongly with Root Division's mission to support emerging artists in the Bay Area in order to foster creativity and community in San Francisco. This summer marks Root Division's fourth anniversary moving into its bigger, better, and brighter space at 1131 Mission Street. The activation on the building will welcome visitors passing on Mission Street and will honor Susan O'Malley's legacy through this temporary public installation.

The unveiling of the mural will coincide with *New Growth: Shared Stories*, Root Division's Annual Youth Art Exhibition + Extravaganza, which features hands-on family art making activities, alongside an exhibition of student artwork from Root Division's free after school Youth Education Program.

This mural is currently being completed by Root Division Alumni Studio Artist, Robert Minervini, an experience painter and muralist. A sincere thank you to Center Hardware for providing the donated paint, and most importantly to the Estate of Susan O'Malley which enables the powerful optimism of Susan O'Malley's work to live on.

ABOUT SUSAN O'MALLEY

Susan O'Malley (1976–2015) was an internationally exhibited artist and curator based in the San Francisco Bay Area. As Curator and Print Center Director at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, she worked with hundreds of artists and organized more than 50 exhibitions and public programs. As a social practice artist, she made work that brings a sense of interconnectedness into our lives, from conversations with strangers to installations in public places. O'Malley's artwork has been exhibited in public projects across the United States—San Francisco, New York, Nashville—and around the globe in the United Kingdom, Poland, and Denmark. Her work has been exhibited at alternative spaces and cultural institutions, including SFMOMA, the Oakland Museum of Art, the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, the San Diego Airport, the Montalvo Art Center, Kala Art Institute, and Palo Alto Art Center, as well as the Contemporary Art Museum (Houston, TX), the Parthenon Museum (Nashville, TN), and ArtWorks Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH). Her participatory installation *Finding Your Center*, a collaboration with Leah Rosenberg, was featured in *Bay Area Now 7* at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and her project *A Healing Walk* is permanently installed at the Montalvo Art Center.

ABOUT ROOT DIVISION

Root Division is a visual arts non-profit in San Francisco that connects creativity and community through a dynamic ecosystem of arts education, exhibitions, and studios. Root Division's mission is to empower artists, foster community service, inspire youth, and enrich the Bay Area through engagement in the visual arts. The organization is a launching pad for artists, a stepping-stone for educators and students, and a bridge for the general public to become involved in the arts.

Root Division is supported in part by a plethora of individual donors and by grants from National Endowment for the Arts, San Francisco Arts Commission: Community Investments, Grants for the Arts, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Deutsche Bank Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, The Morton Foundation, Drusie Davis Family Fund, Violet World Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, Garver Family Foundation, Bill Graham Memorial Fund, and Art4Moore.

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