Opulent Mobility Exhibit Proposal

Opulent Mobility asks artists and audience members to re-imagine disability as opulent and powerful; because if we can't imagine a more equitable and accessible world, we can't make one happen.

This annual exhibit has attracted the attention of the media and included artists from across the United States and around the world. Opulent Mobility was founded in 2013 by A. Laura Brody and is co-curated by Ms. Brody and the disability photographer Anthony Tusler. The shows were featured on KCRW's program DnA, the Improvised Life website, Create Magazine, Fractured Atlas, and the World Gone Good podcast. There are two retrospective exhibits: one was part of USC's Visions and Voices programming in 2024 and the other is currently on view at Brand Library & Art Center.

The website includes all artworks from the 2015-2025 exhibits. These artworks range from sculpture to photography, paintings, and graphic art and address disability in a myriad of forms. The 2025 exhibit at Brand Library & Art Center features works by artists Amabelle Aguiluz, Anahid Boghosian, Vanessa Hernández Cruz, Patricia Fortlage, Kellie Gilllespie, Francesca Hummler, Diana Elizabeth Jordan, Aragna Ker, Monica Marks, Larissa Nickel, Rebecca Niederlander, Tom and Linda Peters, Jaklin Romine, Katherine Sherwood, and Rachel Ungerer. Opulent Mobility exhibits celebrate disability, raise awareness, and start conversations about our perceptions of disability and intersectionality. They introduce students, teachers, and your audiences to the vast diversity of disability experience and representation.

We strive to have the exhibits be as accessible as possible, including art descriptions in both text and audio formats. QR codes will link your audience to each artist's web page so that they can access the accessibility features and learn more about the artists and their work. If you choose to host Opulent Mobility, we require accessibility features including the sign language best suited to your area for show openings, exhibit tours, performances, workshops, and online artists talks.

Curriculum offered to accompany and expand on the exhibit: getting into the artwork as a disabled or beginning artist (Bronte Grimm), creating accessible exhibits and events (A. Laura Brody), and the importance of including a disability perspective (Anthony Tusler).

Please contact founder A. Laura Brody at (818) 279-4118 or laurabrody@verizon.net about hosting Opulent Mobility in your venue.

About the participants:

Laura Brody sculpts for the human body and its vehicles. She developed and curates **Opulent Mobility**, a series of exhibits that re-imagine disability as opulent and powerful. Her art has been shown at the Ikouii Creative, ACE/121 Gallery, Brea Gallery, the Charles River Museum of Industry, Westbeth Center for the Arts, California State University Northridge, Gallery Expo, the Dora Stern Gallery at Arts Unbound, and The World of Wearable Art. Ms. Brody works as a professional costume maker and designer, an artist, and as an educator. She is passionate about reuse, sustainability, and re-imagining disability.

Brontë Grimm is an award-winning and nationally exhibited multimedia photographer, multidisciplinary artist, and queer trans disability activist whose artwork focuses on initiating a dialogue about issues facing the disabled. They were the recent subject of the short documentary "Kathryne: Uncensored" where they discussed accessibility in the arts, and their artwork has been published in various literary journals and art magazines. Brontë's activist work has led to numerous lectures and presentations on disability rights and issues facing the disability community, including ableism in media narratives and representation. They formerly sat on the board of the Kansas Disability Caucus and on the Expressions curatorial and organizing committee through The Whole Person as their Disabled Artist Representative. Brontë's current activism and art focus is breaking down the barriers of how disabled bodies are viewed in contemporary art and in society, bringing awareness to the lack of accessibility within the American arts scene, and discussing the intersection of Domestic Violence, Disability, and Queerness.

Anthony Tusler is a wheelchair-using writer, photographer, and community organizer. He advocates for disability culture and better access to disability in the arts, public health, and technology. For 22 years he was the founding Director of the Disability Resource Center at Sonoma State University and helped to launch a number of non-profits, including the Institute on Alcohol, Drugs, and Disability, Community Resources for Independence, Disability Associates, the National Center on Disability and Journalism, and Disability Arts: Bay Area. He lives with his wife in Sonoma County. He has written curricula and taught Disability in America, technology access classes, and consumer-oriented technology training. He was the Coordinator of the Technology Policy Division at the World Institute on Disability for three years. He is the author of "How to Create Disability Access to Technology: Best Practices in Electronic and Information Technology Companies."

Opulent Mobility at Brand Library & Art Center

The Fairy Melusine, Medusa, and the Kali Walker by A. Laura Brody, Wheelchair Madonnas by Katherine Sherwood, Elvira on Fire by JaKlin Romine, and under/medicated/over by Kellie Gillespie.

From left to right: Feminist as Fuck by Jaklin Romine, sea/center I, II, and III by Amabelle Aguiluz, and In My Father's Footstep by Anahid Boghosian

Opulent Mobility at USC

Poster for Opulent Mobility at USC's Visions and Voices

Artworks by A. Laura Brody, Kat Chudy, and Brontë Grimm

Opulent Mobility 2022 at Antelope Valley College art gallery

From left to right: Ellen Mansfield's "Sunset, Sunrise" and "Me OK, You OK", Judith Klausner's "Advair Inhaler" and "Flovent Inhaler", Ash Hagerstrand's "Venus and the Man Playing God", and Kat Chudy's "Sick Coat".

From left to right: Rachel Ungerer's "Here For All Of You", Kellie Gillespie's "Under Medicated/Over Medicated", David Isakson's "Useless Assistive Device" and Bronte Grimm's "Disassociate", "Disperse", and "Fall".

Opulent Mobility 2022 at Antelope Valley College art gallery

From left to right: “Platinum Jubilee” by ju90, “Ataxian” by Lisa Merida-Paytes, and “My Power My Love” by Rachel Ungerer.

Bottom to top: “Advair Inhaler” and “Flovent Inhaler” by Judith Klausner and “Venus and the Man Playing God” by Ash Hagerstrand.

Opulent Mobility 2019 at Arts Unbound

In front: “Firebird” by A. Laura Brody. In the background are works by Emily Tironi, David Isakson, Yaron Dotan, Dianna Temple, and Penny Richards.

Collages by Emily Tironi, “Wheelchair Tornado” photographs by Dianna Temple, sculpted prosthetic limbs by Jewel Lin, and the “Parking Blanket” by Penny Richards.

Opulent Mobility 2019 at Arts Unbound

Emily Tironi's "Going Places" "A League of Their Own" "Accessible Design" and "Stand Out", David Isakson's " N-Euro Transmitter", and Yaron Dotan's "Ghost In The Machine".

Becca Cerra's "Altered Aesthetics".

Opulent Mobility 2015 at Cal State Northridge

Penny Richards' "Steampunk Submarine" modeled by her son Jake.

The "Jazzy Peacock Scooter" by A. Laura Brody, "After Ingres" by Katherine Sherwood, and "Wheelbourne Venus" by Gini.