



*Artists printing flags in CRCI*



*Completed flags, ready for installation*

## **NEW ARTWORK INSTALLED AT COLUMBIA RIVER CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION**

*Unique inside-outside creative partnership produces site-specific installation in NE Portland*

### **PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Contact:**

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**Portland, OR – (May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015)** Please join us to dedicate a new and site-specific art piece, *30 FLAGS*, created by Emily Squires and Reiko Hillyer in collaboration with adults in custody at Columbia River Correctional Institution (CRCI). **RSVPs by May 20<sup>th</sup> to Emily Squires (contact info listed above) are required to attend this event.**

#### **Dedication Ceremony**

Tuesday, May 26th, 1-2 p.m.

Columbia River Correctional Institution

9111 NE Sunderland Ave., Portland, OR 97211

***You must RSVP to attend.***

Speakers will include Superintendent Rick Angelozzi, a representative(s) from the workshop, and the artists.

Since October, Emily Squires has been an artist-in-residence at Columbia River Correctional Institution. In partnership with Know Your City and scholar-activist Reiko Hillyer, Squires collaborated with adults in custody to design, screenprint, and install a series of handmade flags throughout the institution. The flags are installed at the entryway into CRCI, throughout the main hallway of CRCI, and every artist mailed a set to someone of their choosing on the outside.

During weekly art workshops – bookmaking, drawing, and collage – the group discussed the concept of *place*. Through thinking about the specificity and regulations of *inside* (CRCI as an institution, the interior rooms and exterior yard, the bunk) versus the physical and emotional dislocation from *outside* (Portland, home, location prior to incarceration), the group identified different audiences: fellow adults in custody, people that can come and go (volunteers, staff, or family) and external communities. They designed flags using both image and text to carry messages of their choosing based on their lived experiences. Approximately 12 artists created 30 unique designs, each 7" x 9". Squires burned silkscreens in her studio, and the group screenprinted hundreds of flags in CRCI. Squires sewed the flags

into long strands that can be hung as a complete set (picture flags flying above a car lot or Tibetan prayer flags).

For more details about the project, see contact information listed at the beginning of the press release. To RSVP for the event, email Emily Squires at [emily.squires@gmail.com](mailto:emily.squires@gmail.com) or call 314.650.9934 by May 22, 2015.

*30 Flags* is made possible through the generous support of the Vital Projects Fund.

#### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

Emily Squires is an artist and educator currently living in Portland, OR. Her multidisciplinary practice investigates themes such as voice, participation, and love ([www.emilysquires.com](http://www.emilysquires.com)). Reiko Hillyer is an Assistant Professor of History at Lewis & Clark College.

#### **ABOUT CRCI**

Columbia River Correctional Institution is a 593-bed minimum-security prison located in northeast Portland. The institution opened in September 1990 and houses male inmates who are within four years of release. The focus of Columbia River is to prepare adults in custody for successful re-entry into their communities by offering release planning and programs. Approximately 50 inmates are housed in a separate living area designed specifically for use as a residential alcohol and drug treatment program, and another unit is dedicated to a 61-bed Alternative Incarceration Program; in both units, adults in custody voluntarily participate in therapeutic community programs designed to address serious addiction and substance abuse issues.

#### **ABOUT KNOW YOUR CITY**

Know Your City engages the public in art and social justice through creative placemaking projects. Their programs and publications aim to educate people to better know their communities, and to empower them to take action.