

Manav Gupta

by Jen Dolen
(Excerpt: Video Transcript)

I first came across Manav's work about six years ago or so, writing about his piece, The Ganga Waterfront Along the Time Machine, for the magazine that we publish, Public Art Review. The visual impact of his work always clearly has Manav's touch. He has a very specific style that's really lovely. He has emphasis on local crafts, sustainable practices, has a sensibility that embraces the architecture and literally physically embraces the site and the space in a beautiful way in this kind of flowing physical connection.

The installation of art in public space allows an artist to connect with the local community, reflecting the people there. and or commenting on current crises that touch their lives in the physical world around them. With Manav's work, he draws the viewer's attention to human use of materials and the sustainability of local resources and our environmental crises with attention to respect for nature. and also the transience of the human lifespan in this great much larger universe around us and on this earth. This kind of work which physically embraces the site in a beautiful respectful way leads us to question our relationship with nature and our sustainability and use of materials and our place on this planet and these are the kinds of conversations that we need to be having now. And artists like Manav are able to help make those conversations more accessible and draw attention to them in a way that perhaps leave a stronger impression than perhaps statistics or news about climate change. So I hope that everyone is able to appreciate the beauty in his work and draw some questions out of the crises that he's drawing attention to and the issues that he's hoping that we talk more about and pay attention to.