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WHERE Were You Harassed? Sexual Harassment Project Re-Opens in Wake of Kavanaugh Hearings

Reviewed in Huffington Post, Online Platform for Sexual Harassment Victims
to Express Themselves Openly and Anonymously

SAN FRANCISCO, October 10, 2018—Amidst the news of entertainer Bill Cosby’s sentencing and Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s hearing, the sexual harassment locations project, WHERE Were You Harassed?, has been re-initiated to provide support for all victims of sexual harassment and serves to shine a light upon the enormity and prevalence of sexual harassment and assault, as well as the ongoing impact of trauma.

WHERE Were You Harassed? provides all victims a chance to anonymously express themselves honestly and openly, without fear of repercussion. A combination public service and art project, over 500 location stories have been collected to date. The project is inclusive, open to all regardless of gender or sexual orientation, and contributors remain anonymous.

WHERE Were You Harassed? was conceived and created in November 2017 by San Francisco Bay Area-based artist Barbara Bryn Klare during the almost daily revelations of sexual harassment or sexual assault in the news by Harvey Weinstein, Roger Ailes, Senator Al Franken, Representative John Conyers Jr., President Donald Trump, and others.

“Capturing the electric urgency of this wave of disclosures and disclosures and the public effort to discuss and process these highly-charged revelations is WHERE Were You Harassed?,” writes Bill Lichtenstein in a Dec. 10, 2017 Huffington Post article. “[This is] a stunning art project that has engaged the public to tell a story that could not be more clear: sexual harassment, assault and rape has — and can — happen anywhere.” Starting on Facebook, the project quickly moved to other social media outlets, including Twitter and Instagram. A website (<http://wherewereyouharassed.org>) was developed to portray the growing number of stories. The location stories were used as a starting point to create artwork, including print, photography and video.

“The project attempts to display the prevalence of the problem,” says Klare, “and to serve as a vehicle to display sexual harassment locations and stories in plain sight. It is an open platform for all to express their stories about a very difficult and painful subject. I chose to focus on location, rather than a painful or scary act or behavior, so the project is more accessible.” Many of the comments from participants describe a sense of support and often, relief, at finding a platform to tell their stories. Online comments include:

“Unbelievable and shocking and powerful and heart wrenching and so much more. Thank you.”

“I agree with all the comments above. A conversation that has been missing for years finally getting spoken. Thank you.”

“Thank you, you have given me a voice after many years of never telling.”

WHERE Were You Harassed? can be found online at <http://wherewereyouharassed.org/>, on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/WHEREWereU/> and on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/wherewereyouharassed/>. Location stories can be submitted directly via a form on the site, or by emailing wherewereyouharassed@gmail.com. Art from the project, including print, photography and video can be viewed at <http://barbarabrynklare.com/where-were-you-harassed/>.

About Barbara Bryn Klare

Barbara Bryn Klare is a San Francisco Bay Area-based artist and researcher who uses rescued textiles, objects, drawings and digital media to reference issues in society and culture. Her practice encompasses a lifelong study of textiles, writing and design. Klare's works range from two-dimensional works on paper and small objects to large-scale hangings, installation and sculpture.

For more information, visit: <http://barbarabrynklare.com>.

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