

This mural was painted in Missoula, MT in 2020. I love public art projects which invite public participation, especially when collaborators can tangibly see their individual contributions in the final product. Along this vein of thought, I wanted to use this mural as an opportunity for people to connect in this strange year, which for many has been quite isolating. I began the process by organizing a participation call where I invited community members to send me photos of their hands, some words that they would like to share about themselves, and their favorite color. I tried to reach as many people as possible, and shared the art call through social media and posters around town. Each hand on the creature is a depiction of someone's hand who lives in the community, and is painted in their favorite color. In conjunction with the mural, I illustrated a digital book of the hands, names and statements given by each participant. I hope for it to act as a map or key that can be referred to while looking at the mural, in order to listen to and connect with the stories of each person that is on the wall.