

Ben Livingston

Interactive Project Artist, Neon Artist - Combining Salvaged Material of the Past.

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

Topics

- Art
- Family / Relationships
- Jewish Groups
- Mindfulness
- Overcoming Adversity



About Ben Livingston

National Endowment of the Arts fellow, Ben Livingston is internationally known as a neon/light sculptor. He is the inventor of an opalescent color palette for neon, using a variety of UV sensitive phosphorescent compounds and minerals. Ben originally observed these glowing compounds in New Zealand in 1985 which ultimately led to his signature work- luminous tubes he calls 'Nightsticks' or 'Spirit Antennae'.

Livingston works in a wide range of mediums such as found objects, historical archives and artifacts, photography, wood, copper, steel, glass, drawing, painting, and video. He is also a story-teller, lecturer, blogger, singer/songwriter and performer as well as an actor in film and television. Many articles have been published regarding his artwork, neon landmarks, life, thoughts and world travel.

His current work called "Spirit Houses or Ghost Memory" is a site specific traveling exhibit designed to convert the static nature of any museum or art center into a spirit house made of reinterpreted materials from that community's dynamic past combined with Spirit Antennae which responds directly to those materials.

Ben Livingston was born in Victoria, Texas in 1958 and makes his artwork and home in Austin with his family.

Select Keynotes

- **Shared stories preserve and share humanity's stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world.**

Our shared stories...

We share our stories to remind one another of our shared humanity, to strengthen and build the connections between people, to teach the value of listening, and to weave into the fabric of our culture the understanding that everyone's story matters. At the same time, we are creating an invaluable archive for future generations.

There is an interactive exchange where family members interview and record one and other's stories using their smart phones as recording devices? That way kids can implement familiar technology to record their elder's "back in the day" stories. In turn, kids teach elders to interview/record theirs about that crush on Tiffany in 9th grade math class today..

Next, a graphic novel type story book could be made by each listener where any kind of literal or figurative artwork interprets details or feelings experienced from the story they hear. A fun, perhaps therapeutic and far reaching exercise that would inevitably deepen one's understanding of any story's content. The take away is an exchange of important information, gained mutual respect and compassion between generations and a keepsake.

Select Articles

- [Drawing With Light](#)

Ben began combining his "Spirit Sticks", neon antenna he gifts to people who have recently lost loved ones, and the salvaged wood, some with nails still in tact. He says he wanted to show how quickly people dismiss history and the willingness of one generation to disregard the next.

- [Spirits of the past come alive in neon art exhibit](#)

Livingston said his intention with his neon art is to house them in material that sometimes dates more than 100 years old, such as wood from old barns or from slave quarters.

- [Ben Livingston's 'Spirit Houses' at San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts](#)

"It's intended to provoke thoughts and memories of people and events which in many cases are long forgotten — and to sense the presence of those thoughts and memories in the Spirit Houses sculptures. They remind us that our minds are full of ghosts all the time."