

Dear Art Vandal,

On Tuesday night, you came to see my show Saturation Point at A-B Projects at Claremont Graduate University. Apparently, you were so enthusiastic about this artwork that you were inspired to destroy it. As my exhibition is about unity and optimism, I am going to try to empathize with you and attempt to understand why you felt compelled to commit such an act of destruction.

Here is my list of possible motives you might have to be so destructive:

- You were so convinced by my craftsmanship that you believed the porcelain spigot on the sculpture was real. The sculpture was actually overflowing and you were just trying to be helpful by turning it off.*
- You felt the need to challenge the stated affirmation that human resiliency surpasses social constructions. Perhaps you needed to measure your own physical strength against that of the sculpture?*
- Despite the gallery being located at a graduate art institution, you clearly do not know the #1 rule about art gallery etiquette. Didn't anyone teach you not to touch, to keep your hands to yourself and have basic respect for art?*
- Maybe you think unsolicited touching is harmless. With all the body references in my work, did you feel entitled to violate this art? Did that make you feel powerful?*
- Or maybe you connected so strongly with the artwork, and correctly identified the porcelain object as representational of power. Your choice to break it was an attempted gesture of solidarity with current social justice movements. Were you thinking about #fuckthepatriarchy #blacklivesmatter #metoo #intersectionalfeminism?*
- Or perhaps you simply tripped and hit your head on the piece? And as you fell to the ground you accidentally ripped up 16" of rubber that was fastened to the floor? I hope you did not hurt yourself. Porcelain is very sharp when you break it into shards.*

Whatever your intention, you get to live with the fact that your actions have consequences—emotional, financial, and societal. You are providing a valuable educational experience to our art community. Your action only persuades the audience to cultivate a deeper empathy for the experience—far beyond broken artwork—of being violated. #silenceiscomplicity

Thank you for making this exhibition even more poignant.

*Sincerely,
Alison Ragguette*