

Best regards,

New works by Isabella Whitfield
On view July 6 through August 10, 2024

Artist reception Saturday, July 13, 2024, 5–7pm
1353 U St NW, Washington, DC 20009



Isabella Whitfield, *How to recall a message* (detail), 2024. Courtesy of Hamiltonian Artists

Washington, DC: Hamiltonian Artists is pleased to present Isabella Whitfield’s solo exhibition *Best regards*. Inspired by the ways in which personal aptitude can be misaligned with environmental and social expectations, Whitfield’s latest body of work urges viewers to double back and look closer. Is the thing I’m looking at what I think it is, or something else? Do the things that I say and do actually come across to others the way I intend?

Primarily working with paper and metal, Whitfield renders safety equipment, tools, and other utilitarian objects. Through her use of color, material, and repetition, the artist alienates individual parts from their original substance, mode of presentation, and broader systems of utility—contradicting the ways in which the objects typically function. In bringing an uncanny look and feel to the familiar, Whitfield destabilizes initial recognition with an undercurrent of incertitude.

The exhibition’s namesake, a common e-mail correspondence sign-off, holds a similar duplicitous potential. “Best regards” can convey genuine kindness, yet it is sometimes used to mask frustration or apathy beneath the veneer of civility. Disguising ulterior dispositions under an innocuous surface.

Facetious yet sentimentally sincere, *Best regards*, grapples with the precarious nature of agency amid public and interpersonal interpretation, and the tension that underpins the notion of purpose.

An artist-led exhibition walkthrough will be held on Saturday, July 27, 3pm. Link to register [here](#). Visit Hamiltonian Artists’ [website](#) and follow [@hamiltonian_artists](#) on Instagram for more information; details to be announced.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Isabella Whitfield (b. 1998; Centreville, VA) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Virginia, working primarily in sculpture and site-responsive installation. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Sculpture and Politics from the University of Virginia, she completed a postgraduate year as an Aunspaugh Art Fellow. Whitfield's fabrication process adopts repetitive motions, testing physical endurance through mundane performative actions.

By abstracting object materiality, she examines the internal disassociation that arises when intended purpose contradicts actual functionality. Inspired by contemporary artifacts, religious architecture, and commonplace tools, her work is quietly precise, inviting viewers to confront the familiar with a sense of alienation. Whitfield exhibits primarily in the DMV and has been a resident artist with Penland, Anderson Ranch, Ox-Bow, Pyramid Atlantic, and VisArts Richmond. She is currently a Papermaking Associate at Pyramid Atlantic. Whitfield is a 2022–2024 Hamiltonian Artists fellow.



ABOUT HAMILTONIAN ARTISTS

Hamiltonian Artists' mission is to nurture community and increase access to space, opportunity, and resources for emerging artists, through impactful programs and exhibitions.

The organization reaffirms and expands upon its originating vision as an incubator for the professional development of emerging visual artists, serving as a hub for Washington, DC's, creative economy and a vibrant center for contemporary art in the DC area. With its unique investment in emerging artists, Hamiltonian Artists provides resources to aid their development in important business skills, professional experiences, and visibility to support and sustain their art career.

Through the fellowship program, exhibitions, studios, artist talks, public events, membership program for art collectors at all levels, and so much more, the organization contributes to the vitality of the area's arts scene by deepening the appreciation for contemporary art and culture throughout Washington, DC, and beyond.

HOW TO VISIT

Location: Hamiltonian Artists, 1353 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Hours: Thursday–Saturday, 11am–6pm

For more information visit hamiltonianartists.org.

CONTACT

For press inquiries and additional info, contact Anisa Olufemi, fellowship manager and curator anisa@hamiltonianartists.org.

Images available [here](#).