

ANN HAMILTON

DELL MEDICAL SCHOOL
LANDMARKS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
FINAL CONCEPT PROPOSAL
2017



There is a primal reassurance in being touched, in knowing that someone else, someone close to you, wants to be touching you. There is a bone-deep security that goes with the brush of a human hand, a silent, reflex-level affirmation that someone is near, that someone cares.

- JIM BUTCHER, WHITE NIGHT

CONCEPT

O*N E E V E R Y O N E* is a public art project commissioned by Landmarks for the new Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin. Developed in response to Dell's innovative approach to funding, providing medical care, and educating healthcare professionals, this project created a series of individual portraits of students, faculty, staff, and community partners.

At the core of the Dell Medical School program is a recognition of individual peoples and experiences. Seeing and being seen—represented in language and in image—form the basis of contact, exchange, and expression; they are also the substance of this project.

In three week-long residencies, volunteers were photographed through a semi-transparent membrane that registers in focus only what immediately touches its surface, while rendering more softly the gesture or outline of the body. Four of the twelve photo shoots occurred on the UT campus while the rest took place at the following partner locations: The Contemporary Austin, Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, Huston-Tillotson University, North Central Health Center, The Senate Chamber at the Texas State Capitol, Southeast Health and Wellness Center, and Westminster Retirement Community.

At the entrances of the Health Discovery and Health Learning Buildings, images from the series were selected and installed as porcelain enamel panels to greet visitors at the major thresholds of the complex. A more intimately-scaled selection of images emphasizing the gestures of the body and the hand will populate study areas and cubbies. More than 70 panels will inhabit the buildings of the Dell Medical School complex.

The permanence of the architectural panels are in contrast to a library of images of the collective portraits which circulates by hand in the form of a 900 page newsprint book. These multiple images also populate a project website where they are available for download.

While the gesture of these portraits is fixed in time and location, the images are emblematic of the ongoing ethic of care present in Dell Medical School's work. Social change can begin with a gesture that communicates at a distance greater than the reach of our voice or the touch of our hand. Perhaps the hand this project offers is one that recognizes our commonness.

MATERIAL

Touch is felt more than seen; we feel the glance of cloth's fall, the weight of a hand, the press of our face against a glass window. Though its qualities are not always visible, to touch is always to be touched in return.

Photographing through a semi-transparent membrane called Duraflex[®] manufactured by Bayer MaterialScience LLC, the images record the experience of standing behind the film, where one can hear but cannot see. The resulting shallow depth of field, a consequence of the membrane's visual qualities, focuses each point where the body makes contact with the material and extends an interest in visual forms of tactile experience.



Semi-transparent membrane, Duraflex[®]

PHOTOGRAPHIC PROCESS



Ann & her team photographing at the Senate Chamber at the Texas State Capitol

HEALTH LEARNING BUILDING ENAMEL PANELS

At the entrances of the Health Learning and Health Discovery Buildings, images from the series were selected and produced as porcelain enamel panels to greet visitors at the major thresholds of the complex. A more intimately-scaled selection of images emphasizing the gestures of the body and the hand will populate study areas and cubbies. More than 70 panels will inhabit the buildings of the Dell Medical School.

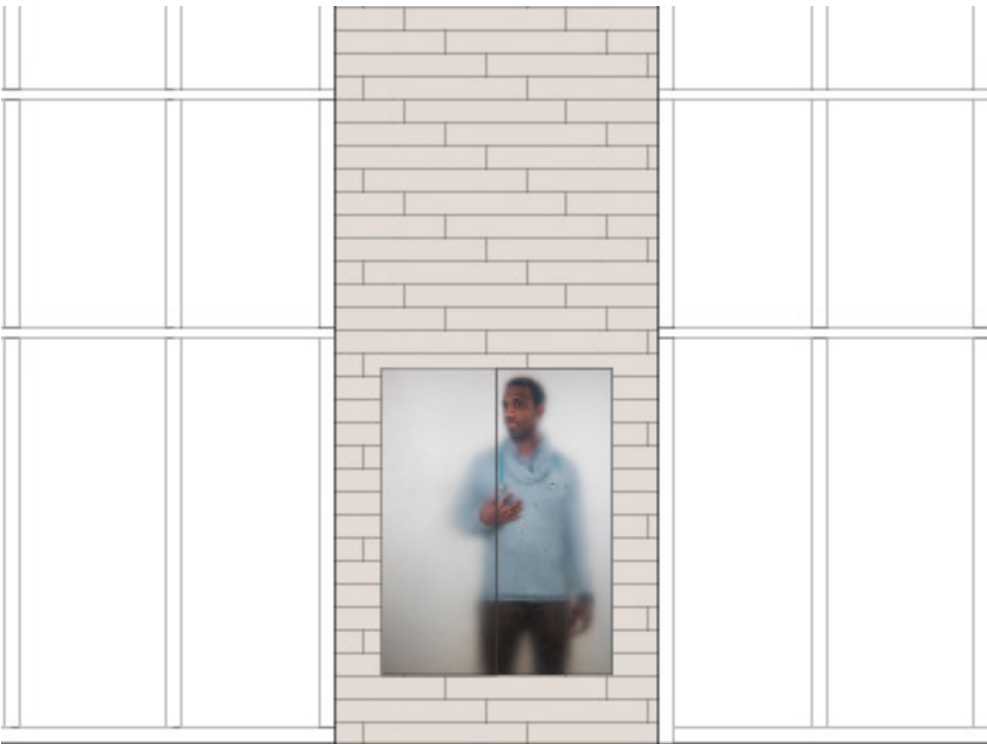


Health Learning Building Lobby panels



Installation of Health Learning Building panels by Vault Fine Art Services

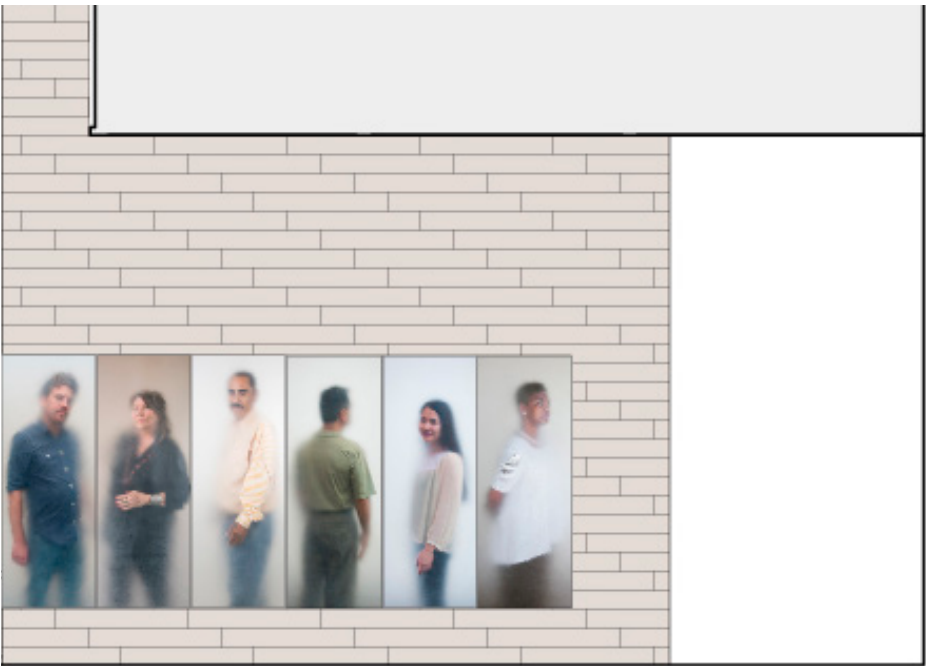
HEALTH DISCOVERY BUILDING ENAMEL PANELS



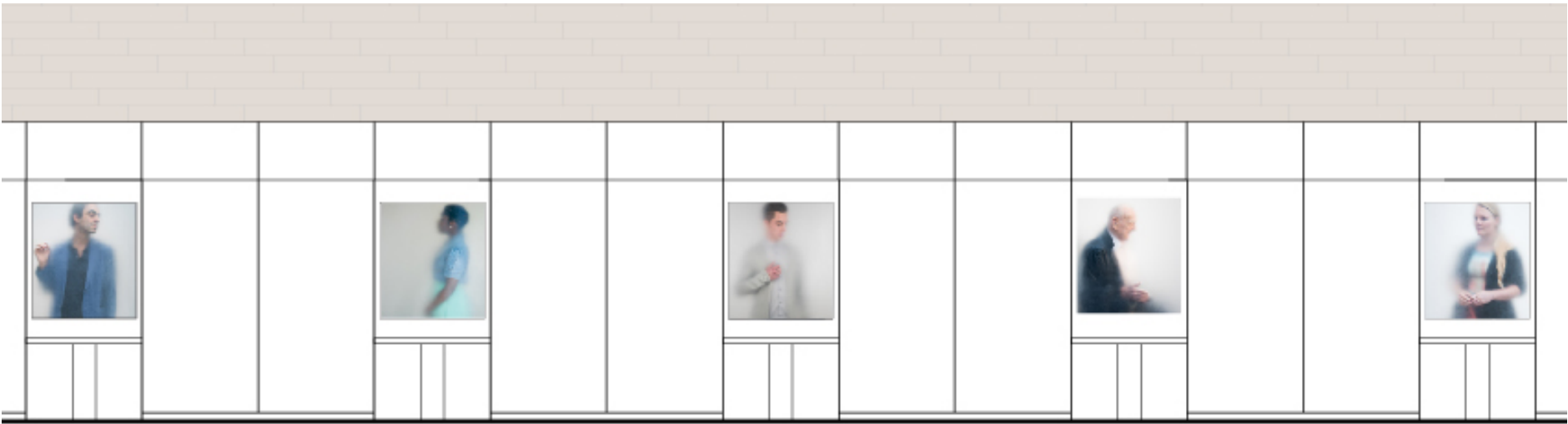
South View of Health Discovery Building Lobby panels



NE View of Health Discovery Building Lobby panels



NW View of Health Discovery Building Lobby panels



Health Discovery Building Interaction Commons panels

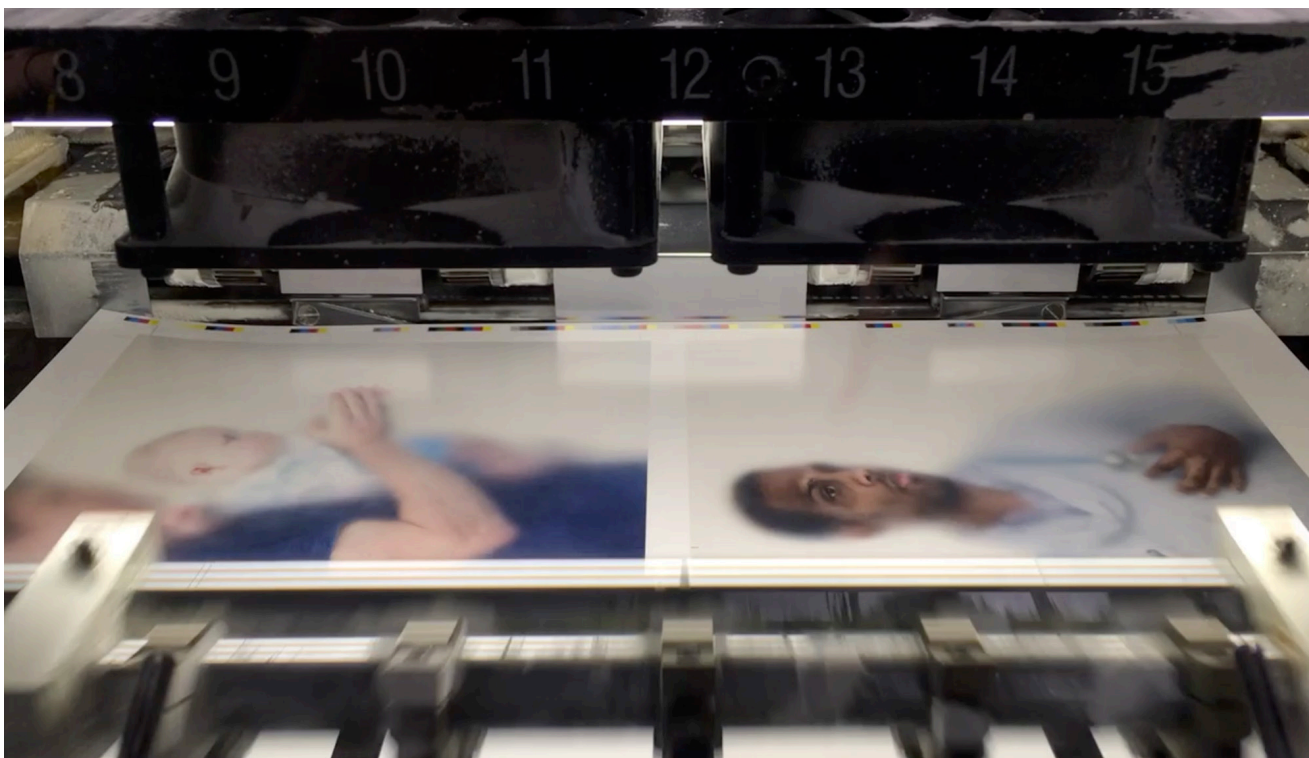
BOOK

A 900-page newsprint book containing at least one image of everyone who was photographed will circulate by hand.

Books are freely distributed in the Visual Arts Center gallery, the Fine Arts Library, and the Health Learning Building of Dell Medical School.



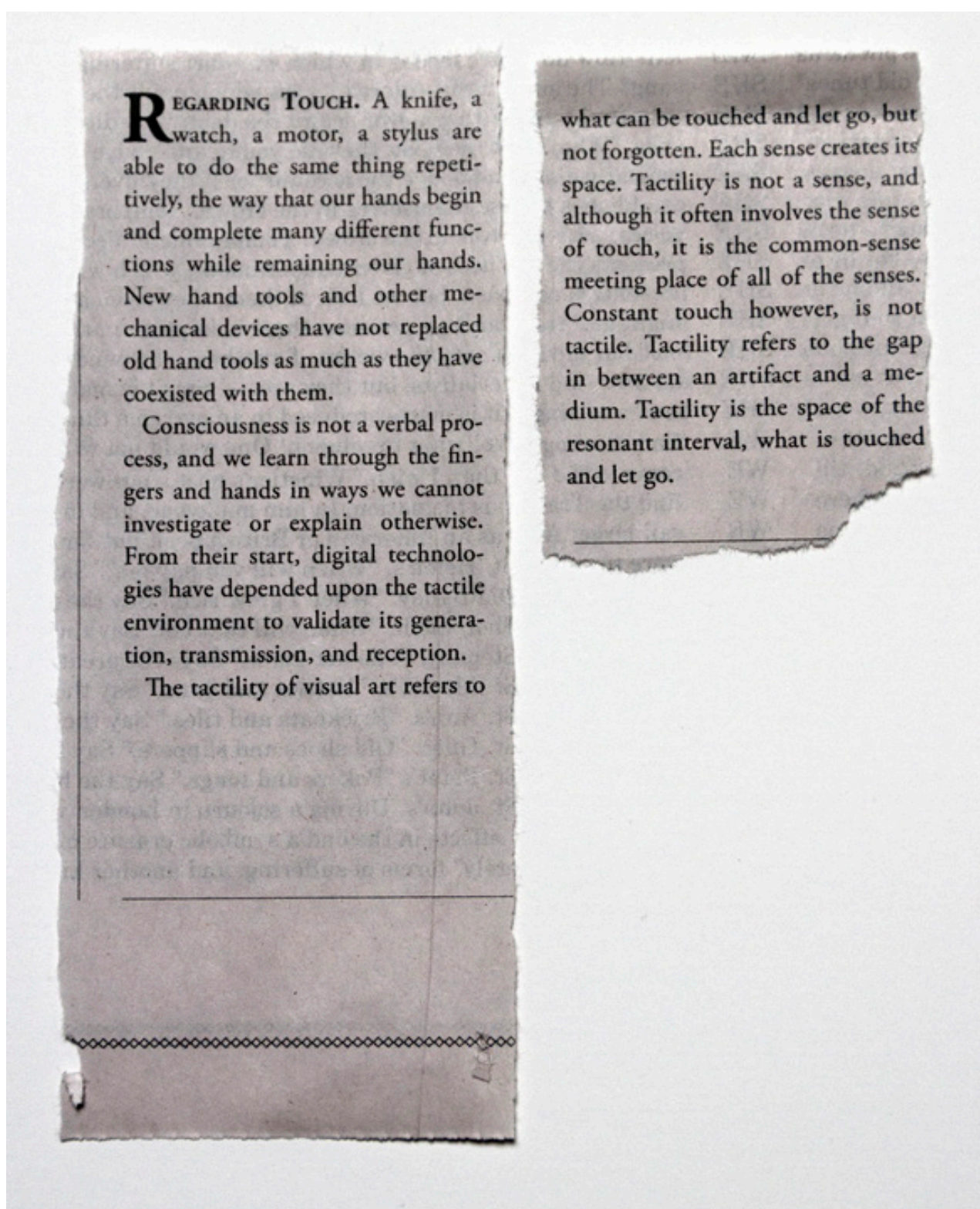
Book dummy



Printing of book covers at Action Printing

NEWSPAPER

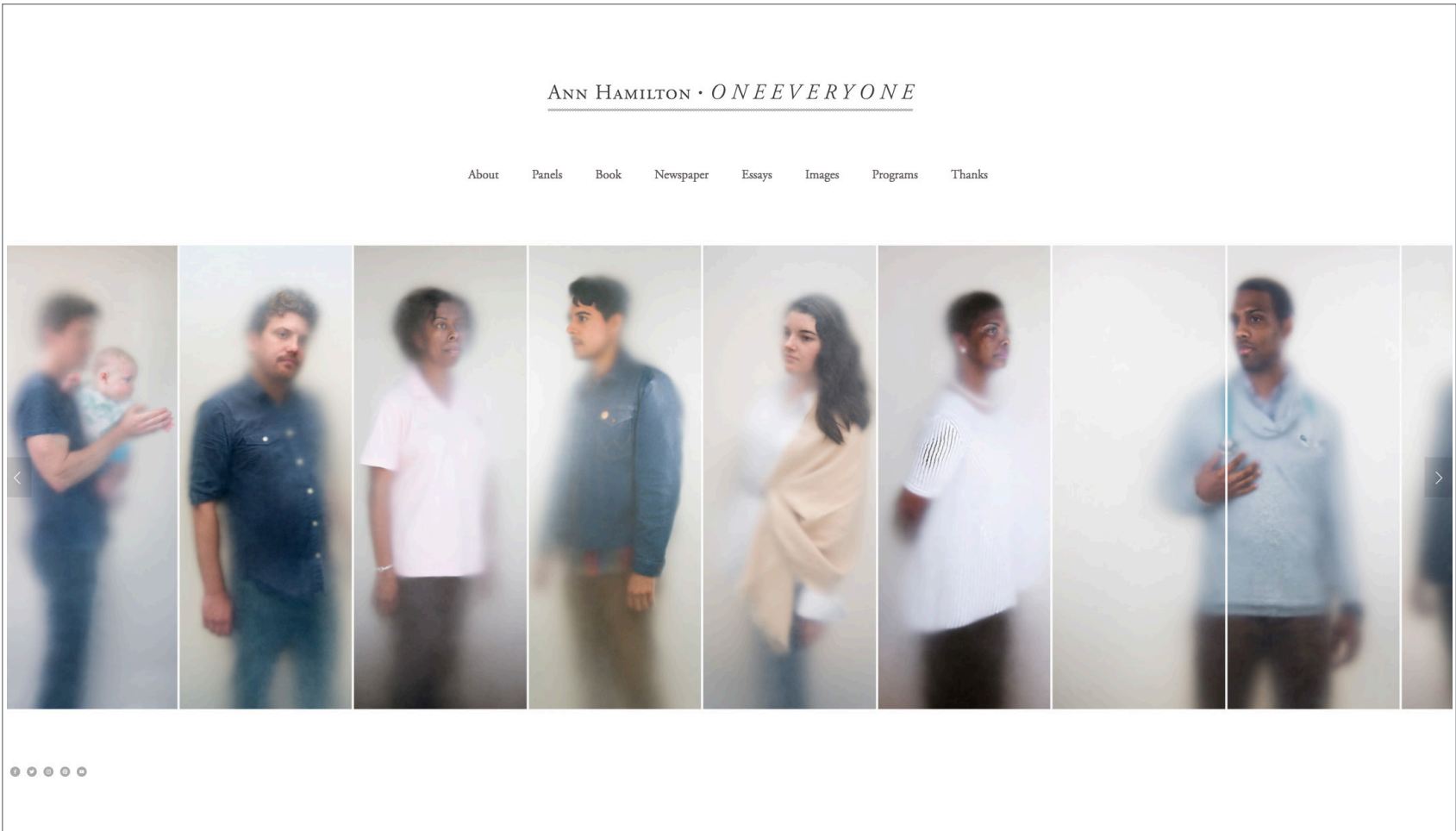
Writers were commissioned to contribute texts that address issues central to the project: care, touch, recognition, listening, empathy, seeing and being seen. Contributors include Laurel Braitman, Matthew Goulish, Kris Paulsen, Nancy Princenthal, Brian Rotman, Natalie Shapero, Meg Shevenock, and Kathleen Stewart. The texts were paired with images and printed as a freely circulating newspaper.



Clipping from Ann Hamilton *the event of a thread* project newspaper

WEBSITE

More information about the project including texts by writers commissioned by the artist, process photography, and a searchable database of downloadable images can be found at Hamilton-landmarks.org.



Panel slideshow on hamilton-landmarks.org