



# OPEN

## An Installation by Robin Bell

February 7 - March 31



Corcoran School  
of the Arts & Design  
Columbian College of Arts & Sciences



#OpenatCorcoran



More than 20 local and national news outlets including WAMU, the Washington Post, WJLA and the New York Times featured the exhibition.

- *The [Agenda News](#)* (Jan 30) and *[Art Daily News](#)* (Feb 10) both posted the GW press release in its entirety

Feb 1

# The Washington Post

Going Out Guide

15 things to do around D.C. in February, including Lunar New Year celebrations and a star-studded “Music Man”

**‘Open’ at Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, Feb. 7-March 31**

Last March, passersby on Pennsylvania Avenue witnessed an impromptu spectacle as a projection reading “Crime Scene: Do Not Enter” flashed across the front entrance of [Trump International Hotel](#). The mastermind behind the brazen visual was local artist Robin Bell, who has made headlines for his politically charged displays at the former Old Post Office and the Newseum, above. “Open,” his new installation at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, further explores freedom of speech and censorship through striking lights and projections. The piece also serves as a prelude to a forthcoming exhibition that examines the cancellation of Robert Mapplethorpe’s retrospective at the now-defunct Corcoran Gallery of Art nearly 30 years ago, after the planned exhibit had received negative attention for its sexual imagery and content. *Free.* — *Stephanie Williams*

Feb 4

**Former professor known for insults projected on Trump’s hotel to open exhibit in Corcoran**

The GW  
**Hatchet**

Months after the election of President Donald Trump, protest messages joking about paying bribes to the president and calling his hotel situated blocks from campus a “shithole” were projected on buildings across the city and spread rapidly on social media.

Now, the Flagg Building’s hollow first-floor exhibition space will be transformed by projections created by the same artist when “Open” makes its debut Thursday.





Robin Bell's first solo exhibition opened in the GW Corcoran School of Arts and Design on Feb. 7.

Mikaela Lefrak / WAMU



WAMU, FEB 7

4:26

## This Artist Projects Protest Messages Onto The Trump Hotel. Now He Has His Own Museum Show

WASHINGTONIAN

### Things to Do in DC This Weekend (February 7-10): A Chocolate Festival, an 11-Hour Live Podcast, and the Chinese New Year

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

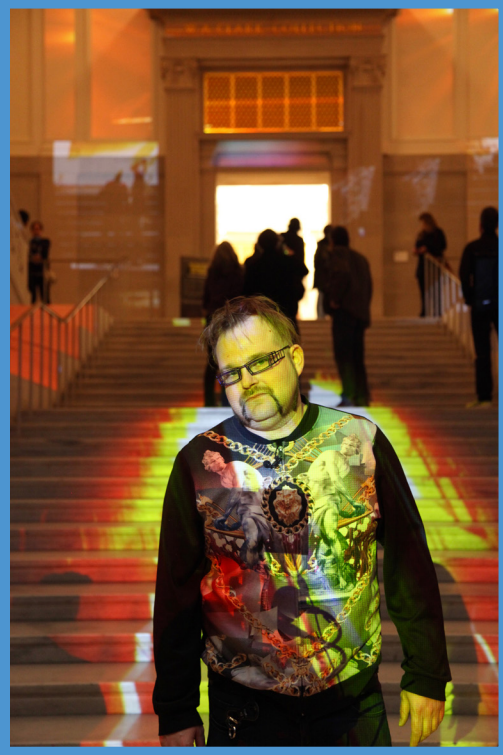
ART Local artist **Robin Bell** presents "Open," an installation of lights and projections, at the [Corcoran School of the Arts and Design at the George Washington University](#).

It is a prelude to "6.13.89," an exhibit centered on the Corcoran Gallery of Art's controversial decision to cancel a **Robert Mapplethorpe** retrospective 30 years ago. Bell intends his work to spark conversations about censorship and the rights granted by the First Amendment. Through March 31; [opening night](#) on 2/7: free, 6 PM.



**OPEN: An Installation by Robin Bell @ Corcoran February 7**

In honor of the cancellation of their Robert Mapplethorpe exhibition thirty years ago, the Corcoran is celebrating all things transparency. They've teamed up with D.C.'s very own Robin Bell, who will be debuting brand new works and highlighting the museums proximity to the White House. Everything Bell does (including our BYT parties!) is high quality and thought provoking, so we have no doubt this will be a fascinating exhibition. Plus, the opening reception is completely free. Nothing is better than free. -Kaylee Dugan



# THURSDAY

- The best event of the night is the opening of *OPEN: An Installation* by Robin Bell at the Corcoran.



**Trump Hotel Projectionist Robin Bell Reflects On The Corcoran's Closed Mapplethorpe Exhibit In A New Show**

Feb 8

# The DC Line

News, Views & Events

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Q

**10. Art:** This is the first weekend to see an exhibition by DC-based artist, filmmaker and street projectionist Robin Bell called **OPEN** at George Washington University's Corcoran School of the Arts & Design. Bell's work has included collaborations with the **Sierra Club** and **MoveOn.org** to raise awareness of social and political issues. This new exhibit is an installation of lights and projections that is meant to be "a counterpoint to censorship, erasure and closure," according to the university's website. **OPEN** kicked off with an evening reception on Thursday and is on view at the Flagg Building, 500 17th St. NW, until March 31. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Feb 10

REVIEW

## OPEN: Multimedia Artist Robin Bell Envisions Inclusive Society



Washington, DC — Multimedia artist and filmmaker Robin Bell premiered a moving lights and projection exhibition of what an open and transparent society should be at the Corcoran School of Arts and Design at George Washington University. 'OPEN: an installation by Robert Bell', uses light and projection to celebrate transparency, belonging, and accessibility with a social commentary about closed thought, exclusion, erasure, and authoritarianism.

Feb 11

### FOR ART'S SAKE

**The Corcoran Gives Anti-Trump "Poop Emoji" Artist a Show** – Robin Bell, the artist who came to prominence for his political projections—including an anti-Trump "poop emoji" on the exterior of the Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC—is getting a museum show just a short walk from the White House. The exhibition at the Corcoran School of Art and Design at George Washington University is a prelude to "6.13.89," a show about the cancellation of the Mapplethorpe retrospective at the then-Corcoran Gallery 30 years ago. (*Art Daily*)

artnet® news

Feb 14

The Washington Post

Express | Weekend Pass

Robin Bell contemplates the power of transparency with 'Open'

WASHINGTON  
CITY PAPER

## At GWU, Robin Bell's Projections Send a Strong Message

*The activist-artist, best known for his projected messages to political leaders, debuts his first solo exhibition.*

BY KRISTON CAPPS — FEB 14, 2019 11 AM



**Robin Bell** never asked for permission to project onto the front of the building as part of his solo show. Administrators at George Washington University should have seen it coming.

"IF YOU CAN READ THIS FROM YOUR OFFICE, YOU MIGHT BE PART OF THE PROBLEM," read the broadcast on the façade of the former Corcoran Gallery of Art, now home to the university's arts school. While the light projection was only active briefly during the show's opening, it served to link the work inside the gallery with the work happening across the street (at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building)—momentarily recruiting the college to his campaign against the White House.



Feb 15

## DC art museum hosts exhibit of bold, laser-projected political messages

by Stephen Tschida/ABC7 | Friday, February 15th 2019

AA



> **CORCORAN DIRECTOR, SANJIT SETHI**

ABC7



WASHINGTON (ABC7) – Artist Robin Bell, who often works in the medium of laser projected messages, is bringing criticism of President Trump to an art museum just steps from the White House.

He has previously gained notoriety for projecting messages onto Trump Hotel in DC.

“I don’t know why it shouldn’t be here,” tourist Oliver Zumrik said. “I mean this is a democratic country, right, people have the right to express their opinions.”

Feb 22

# The New York Times

CRITIC’S NOTEBOOK

## President Trump Has Inspired Art. That’s Not Always a Good Thing.

There are answers already out there. Some of them veer closer to propaganda than art, like [Robin Bell](#)’s light projections of protest messages on government buildings and Trump hotels. (Mr. Bell currently has a [solo show](#) on view at George Washington University.) Badlands Unlimited, the publishing company founded by artist Paul Chan, makes signs that appropriate the language and style of the posters used by the right-wing Westboro Baptist Church: “God Hates Ivanka,” reads [one](#).



A projection by the artist Robin Bell on the side of the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 30, 2018. Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Mar 8

The Washington Post

Museums • Review

# In the galleries: Artists join forces to adorn a wall that will come tumbling down

By Mark Jenkins  
March 8



“‘Open’  
functions  
as a  
laboratory.”

-Mark Jenkins

Installation view of Robin Bell's "The Swamp." (Robin Bell/Bellvisuals.com)

## Open

Video and projection artist Robin Bell has built a wall of his own at GW Corcoran School of the Arts and Design and dubbed it “The Swamp.” The structure is actually five closely spaced pillars made of discarded exhibition pedestals that Bell has, to use his term, “upcycled.” On the stacked white cubes he projects various faces, mostly of politicians but also a few prominent billionaires (including Jeffrey P. Bezos, who owns The Washington Post). The images connote power, yet sometimes fracture helplessly into shards of pixels.

Mar 16

The DC Line  
News, Views & Events

ARTS AND CULTURE | ART

## Celebrated artist Robin Bell helps Corcoran look back on tumultuous time

Sitting in the rotunda of the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design's renovated Flagg Building across from the White House hours before the highly anticipated opening of artist Robin Bell's exhibition *Open*, Corcoran director and curator Sanjit Sethi reflected on the show's inspiration. “I think it's important for us to have dialogues about what happens when cultural institutions get something wrong,” he said.



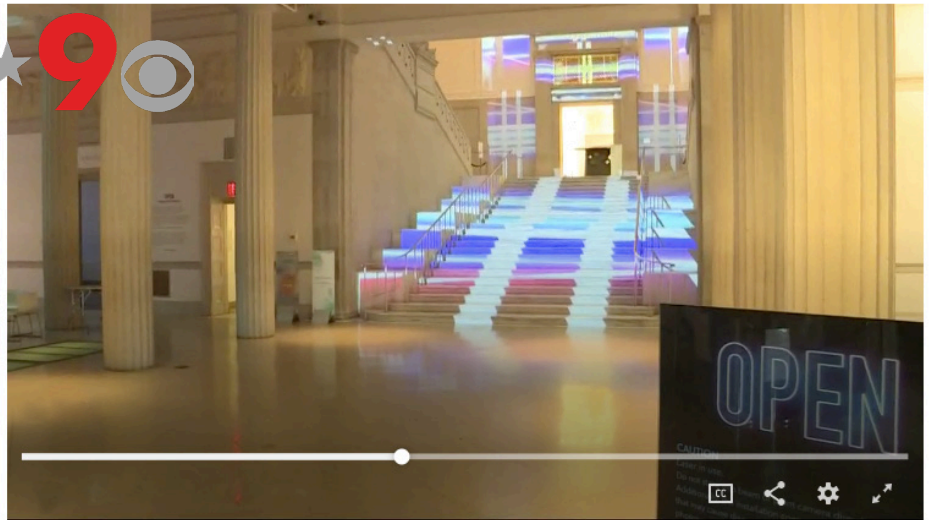
Mar 19



If you haven't seen his work, you have a rare chance to see it displayed inside a museum.

The Corcoran School of Art and Design at George Washington University gave him his own exhibit called: Open.

Bell said he based his exhibit as an homage to photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. Thirty years ago, the Corcoran Museum banned a Mapplethorpe exhibit because it was seen as inappropriate. Almost to the day, Bell is showing off his light projections inside the very same museum.



NEWS

### Projection artist gets exhibit at George Washington University

Projection artist Robin Bell has a new exhibit in the Corcoran School of Art and Design.



Mar 21



ROBIN BELL, CAPITOL POLICE AND THE CORCORAN

Mar 23



### D.C. Residents Respond To Mueller Investigation's Conclusion

Bell: "Everyone who walks into the museum for the weekend will see 'Release the Report!'"

Mar 28

Going Out Guide

## 13 things to do in the D.C. area this weekend

The  
Washington  
Post

**Closing night party for 'OPEN' at Corcoran School of the Arts and Design:** If you haven't seen the exhibit about guerrilla artist Robin Bell at the Corcoran School of the Arts, Sunday night will send off it off with a bang. In addition to your last chance to tour the gallery, there will be multiple dance performances from local companies, as well as live music. Arlington-based performer **Ted Zook**, a frequent Bell collaborator, performs at 8 p.m., but don't miss out on D.C. ensemble **Boat Burning**, a collective of 30 guitarists and two drummers, at 6:30 p.m.: It will be the first live performance from the group since the December death of bandleader Andras Fekete. 6 to 9 p.m. Free.

## WASHINGTONIAN

THINGS TO DO

### Things to Do in DC This Weekend (March 28-31): Women Filmmakers, Qing Empresses, and Nats Opening Day

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 31

**MUSIC** Robin Bell's exhibit "Open" closes on Sunday at the [Corcoran School of the Arts and Design at the George Washington University](#), and the closing evening includes a special performance by local guitar ensemble **Boat Burning**, whose leader **Andras Fekete** [passed away](#) in December. Free, 6 PM.

