
ARTS

One Man's Trash is Another Artist's Treasure in *ruined on a riverbank*

For their latest sculpture exhibit, Hamiltonian Artists fellow Joey Enriquez repurposed materials they found while jogging along the Potomac.



by **HANNAH DOCTER-LOEB**
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"and i stopped on the trail (replicated only twice)" by Joey Enriquez; Courtesy of Hamiltonian Artists

***ruined on a riverbank* at Hamiltonian Artists**

Joey Enriquez is a runner. It's something they structure their days around, oftentimes taking to the trails along the Potomac River. But their jogs have yielded more than just a good workout. While spending time along the river, Enriquez became interested in the geological landscape, frequently finding random bricks scattered along the riverbank. It was this that inspired their latest exhibit, *ruined on a riverbank*, presented as part of Enriquez's fellowship with Hamiltonian Artists. The exhibit consists of three sculptures made from bricks and other materials they have collected, paintings made from matter sourced from the earth, plaster brick casts, and annotated reproductions of archival technical drawings of D.C. neighborhoods. These pieces come together to paint a picture of contemporary issues in the District, such as gentrification, city identity, **statehood**, and architectural history. There is also a more hidden and nuanced theme: labor. "It's easy to ignore the fact that I'm out here injuring myself carrying these bricks, or that people in the recent past—incarcerated people, enslaved people—have had to manufacture these objects," Enriquez says. "There are deeper themes of labor that are separate from the general human history of the city itself." As for what's exactly being ruined on the riverbank? According to Enriquez, there are many different objects of ruin. There's the physical ruin, as the labor involved in the construction of the exhibit was exhausting. There's the geological ruin of the bricks. And there's the ruin of livelihood, says Enriquez. "The title is referential to critical, divisive, issues happening in the city that are literally ruining people's lives, livelihoods, business; ruining histories; ruining the fact that certain populations have existed in certain areas for centuries or decades." *ruined on a riverbank is on display through May 7 at Hamiltonian Artists, 1353 U St. NW. hamiltonianartists.org. Free.*