



the new children's museum™

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MEDIA ALERT

NEW SENSORY FRIENDLY INSTALLATION OPENS AT THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The second phase of Breathing Room by Michelle Montjoy opens to the public on Sept. 10

San Diego, August 30, 2022 – The New Children's Museum commissioned Oceanside-based artist Michelle Montjoy for *Breathing Room*, a new sensory friendly installation that provides a calm respite in an otherwise highly interactive environment. The first phase of the installation opened in June and the second, complete phase opens to the public on September 10.

An **Artist Reception will be held on Sept. 8 from 6:30-8:30pm. Media** are invited to attend and preview the installation. Michelle Montjoy will share her creative process behind *Breathing Room* and be available for questions.

About Breathing Room

Breathing Room is a quiet space on the Museum's main level. The first phase welcomed visitors with calming blue, grey and white colors and hanging textile sculptures made of repurposed T-shirts that gently move up and down, replicating breathing cycles.

Since the first phase in June, Montjoy and the Museum have been observing how visitors engage in the space. The ongoing observations have led to modifications as well as inform new elements for the second phase. Additional elements include the artist's creation of *Hugs* – oversized, stuffed sweater forms with weighted arms that offer a comforting embrace, and *Pods* - organic knitted forms children can climb into, read a book or take a calming break.

Sensory Guide

To complement the intent of *Breathing Room*, the Museum has created a digital Sensory Guide with Xenia Sholl from Sensory Friendly San Diego. The guide includes 3-D tours, audio clips and visual guides that will help guests with neurodiversity, autism and other special needs navigate the Museum and locate spaces and services best suited for the experience they are looking for. The Sensory Guide will also become available on Sept. 10.

Events

The public opening coincides with the Museum's Accessibility Mornings program held on the second Saturday of every month from 8:30-9:30am. The monthly program provides free access to the Museum for families who would benefit from a sensory friendly experience an hour before it opens to the public. Families attending Accessibility Mornings in September will be the first to experience the fully completed *Breathing Room*.

[Link to Photos](#)

- *Breathing Room* hanging sculptures, Courtesy of The New Children's Museum
- *Breathing Room* knitted sweaters, Courtesy of The New Children's Museum
- *Breathing Room full shot*, Photo Credit: Megan Ousset
- Michelle Montjoy portrait, Photo Credit: Geoff Cunningham

About Michelle Montjoy

Michelle Montjoy is an Oceanside-based artist who works in a combination of installation, textile, sculpture and socially-engaged practices. A former public school art teacher, her work approach is based in humor, generosity and sustainability. Her work has been shown at MCASD, Art Produce Gallery, San Diego International Airport, Oceanside Museum of Art, Athenaeum Music and Arts Library and others. michellemontjoy.com

About The New Children's Museum

The New Children's Museum is a new model of children's museum whose mission is to stimulate imagination, creativity and critical thinking in children and families through inventive and engaging experiences with contemporary art. Located downtown, the Museum collaborates with contemporary artists to design and create art installations and educational programs for children. The Museum brings families together in a rich educational environment that fosters creativity — blending the best elements of children's museums, contemporary art museums and community resources. In addition to the downtown San Diego location, the Museum has a satellite location called the Art + Play Space in Del Mar. To learn more, visit thinkplaycreate.org or follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#).