

For Immediate Release

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**ARTIST PAIGE TIGHE BRINGS HAND HOLDING TO SAN FRANCISCO THIS FALL IN THE
“WALK WITH ME” PROJECT AS PART OF THE HALF MOON BAY ARTIST RESIDENCY**

What does walking hand-in-hand mean when the hand holders aren't parent and child or lovers? What could it mean? And why is there a taboo against it in our culture? Los Angeles artist Paige Tighe will explore these questions--and whatever other issues come up--as she holds hands with volunteer partners in Half Moon Bay (San Francisco Bay Area) from September 16, 2013 through January 15, 2014.

Paige started taking walks for “Walk with ME” in LA, and then along the East Coast through Summer 2013, and continues the project with a artist’s residency this Fall culminating in a public walk on January 4th at Poplar Beach, Half Moon Bay.

A Desire for Connection

"I began the project in LA out of a sense of frustration about the terms of everyday touch in America," says Tighe. "I was having a massage, and as the massage therapist began working on my hand, all I wanted to do was hold *her* hand. Not out of a romantic impulse, but from a simple desire for connection."

"What does it mean to live in a culture where people hug hello only rarely, almost never kiss each other on the cheek in greeting, and hardly ever take another's hands unless they're sleeping together? And what would it mean and feel like to hold hands in public with people who've volunteered to experience that connection? I decided I was going to hold hands and walk with as many people as I could."

As they walked with Paige, her partners spoke of their dreams and aspirations, worries and plans while holding hands.

The Itinerary

Tighe left her job, put all of her belongings in storage, and hit the road to conduct her handholding quest, funded via Kickstarter. From April to June, Paige walked from Boston MA to Athens GA, including NYC and Washington DC. Undaunted by the events of the Boston Marathon, she started her project, landing in Boston that very day. There was a stint of walks and an exhibit at Fox Egg Gallery in Paige's home state of Minnesota as she made her way back to the West Coast.

The Residency

Paige is the inaugural artist for the Half Moon Bay (HMB) Artist Residency Program at the studio of artist Laura McHugh. During the residency, Paige will be working on her Walk With Me project, as well as writing and paintings throughout the Fall. On January 4, 2014, Paige will curate a public Walk With Me at the Poplar Beach, bringing together people to hold hands and walk with one another and document their experience.

Paige produced a book documenting the walks to date, collaborating with Alen Catolico of Los Angeles who designed the artist's book. Double Dutch Press in Athens, Georgia created posters and monotypes to accompany the book. <http://doubledutchpress.com> <http://www.a-catolico.us/>

Paige hopes to produce an art piece to commemorate the public performance of Walk With Me on January 4, 2014.

About The Half Moon Bay Artist Residency Program, Laura McHugh – Executive Director

The Half Moon Bay Artist Residency supports participating artists in furthering their work and artistic process by providing a live/work space in a beautiful and restorative natural environment.

The residency also provides the HMB residents an opportunity to interact with the resident artist in the interest of continuing to help HMB and the Coastside become a more vibrant community.

Laura McHugh founded the HMB Artist Residency Program in 2013. Laura is a mixed-media artist and active member of the Colony of Coastside Artists (CoCA) and the Northern California Women's Caucus for Art (NCWCA). She has also served on the Board of Directors for Art In Action, a non-profit dedicated to providing curriculum-based art programs for K-12 school children throughout the United States.

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