

STEVEN HURLEY:

In Conversation with Collective Constructs



UNMAM Coordinator of Exhibitions, Steven Hurley, prepares the installation of *Nothing Without Each Other* (2023) by Collective Constructs member, Anna Rotty, in *Hindsight Insight 2.0*.

Episode Description:

Steven Hurley never planned to work in art—he moved to Albuquerque to run a coffee cart, but the more he worked in galleries, the more he came to find the work continually exciting and deeply meaningful. Hurley has now been at the University of New Mexico Art Museum for 18 years, working his way from Curatorial Assistant to his current role as Exhibitions Coordinator, and in that time he has installed countless exhibitions.

In this conversation, we talk about all the work that goes into putting on exhibitions, how there are teams of people involved in making any show possible, and how all that work, ideally, is invisible to the museum visitors.



Interior view of Steven Hurley's workspace at the UNM Art Museum.

[Click here to listen to the full episode on *HERE TO INSPIRE: UNM Art Museum Journal*](#)

LEARNING ENGAGEMENT:

Think-Pair-Share Questions

Steven says if his job is done well, it hopefully goes unnoticed.

Does labor often go unseen?

What can you infer from an exhibition space about invisible labor?

Building-Critical-Awareness Discussion Questions

Steven shares his insight into the backend and often unseen labor that goes into preparing an exhibition at a museum. Are there power dynamics at play in a traditional museum model? How does collaboration play a role? Or, how might collaboration be taken up within a museum space?



Steven Hurley, prepares the installation of *Nothing Without Each Other* (2023) by Collective Constructs member, Anna Rotty, in *Hindsight Insight 2.0*.



Steven Hurley, prepares the installation of *Underwood & Underwood Landscape (University of New Mexico Art Museum Study I)* (2023) by Collective Constructs member, Francis Reynolds, in *Hindsight Insight 2.0*.

Click here to listen to the full episode on [HERE TO INSPIRE: UNM Art Museum Journal](#)