

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION FOR JUSTIN BRICE

WE ARE THE ASTEROID II, 2018

I am Justin Brice Guariglia, and I'm an artist based in New York City, and much of my work explores how humanity is intertwined with the natural world.

My work is often conceptual, photographic, and/or public facing, such as *We Are the Asteroid*, which I'm presenting here at MAAM in Boston for the first time. This project started out as a collaboration with the eco-philosopher Timothy Morton, and then took on a life of its own, morphing into many variations and iterations over the years.

The project uses solar-powered highway message boards that flash aphorisms calling attention to ecological issues with the intention of enabling new conversations about our planetary crisis. I think it becomes more evident every day that responding to the ecological crisis has become the moral imperative of our time. The title, *We Are the Asteroid*, which is also one of the aphorisms you'll

see flash on the board, relates to the notion that as a collective whole, humanity has the impact of an asteroid hitting the planet.

The pins, which feature the title of the work, were a popular gift shop item when the work debuted at Storm King Art Center in 2017, and have found their way onto the jacket lapels and backpacks of UN ambassadors, congressmen, and celebrities, all showing their solidarity with the concept. In conversations with MAAM's director Lisa Tung, we decided as part of the installation of the work in the Displacement show, that every visitor should be able to take home a pin to add to their jacket and/or backpack and help spread the word.