



RALEIGH, NC, September 28, 2022 – CAM Raleigh is pleased to announce Lincoln Hancock’s exhibition of a unique iteration of his 2016 site-specific light sculpture, *FLAG*. The artwork was a response to [HB2](#) — the North Carolina legislature’s notorious and unjust “bathroom bill,” which, despite its colloquial name, went beyond public restroom access and further undercut antidiscrimination laws and limited local control over the minimum wage.

FLAG II is a new iteration by Hancock at CAM Raleigh, inside the Media Lab. Its eight-color rainbow conjures the 1978 pride flag designed by artist and activist Gilbert Baker, along with other San Francisco artists including tie-dyer Lynn Segerblom and seamster James McNamara. *FLAG II* encompasses many elements of Hancock’s original work: playful at first glance, interactive by design, with a warm, inviting glow. Both works, however, were and are designed to implicate passersby into the larger conversation around identity and civil rights, namely those of the LGBTQ communities.

Insisting on participation, the sculpture illuminates and the colors of the flag appear as people move nearby and throughout the work. Thus, interacting with each other in the space becomes synonymous to engaging with the image and content of the flag. *FLAG II* becomes more than the sum of its parts; it becomes a living, action-oriented catalyst for conversation and thought. It asks us to question and reflect on our relationship with the pride flag, the communities it represents, ourselves and our humanity.

In the years since HB2 and Hancock’s initial *FLAG*, conversation around this symbol, representation, and inclusion has evolved in significant ways. Yet, the targeting of LGBTQ+ individuals online and in statehouses has continued. We still see right-wing media and politicians devoted to creating panic over sex and gender, social media harassment campaigns against allies and parents of trans youth, and supreme court justices opining about the end of same-sex marriage. Communities that the pride flag represents are still targets of politicians and religious groups who exploit fear and manufacture outrage in order to divide. *FLAG II* comes at a critical time in our cultural and national evolution. It asks us to revisit the past in order to create a more welcoming and inclusive future.

Lincoln Hancock is an artist and designer based in Raleigh, NC. Through painting, installation, public and community-oriented projects, his work leverages strategies and approaches from art and design to explore notions of site and site-specificity that bridge into historical, social, and cultural realms. His solo and collaborative projects have been seen in traditional and nontraditional venues including the NC Museum of Art, the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, and CAM Raleigh. He is a 2022 recipient of the Raleigh Medal of Arts for Alluvial Decoder, his recent public project (with A Gang of Three, the team he co-founded) on the Raleigh greenway at Crabtree Creek. He has a background in Philosophy and a masters degree in Graphic Design.