

Full Statement  
Paula Rebsom

Threshold: Surveying the Domestic Wild is a large-scale sculptural installation on the Marylhurst University campus built to call attention to wildlife populations that live and thrive among us. It consists of a large-scale viewing blind constructed along the edge of a wildlife corridor that surrounds the campus. In the center of the wall is an open doorway where an existing animal trail, frequented by deer and other wildlife, leads in and out of the forest. A website will give viewers unable to physically engage with the structure 24/7 access to live streaming video of the site along with a selection of time-lapse and motion sensor captured images. The cameras will not only provide an opportunity to capture real-time movement of animals they will also act as a conceptual lens that frames the moment of transition when the invisible become visible by stepping out of the wild into the domestic.

Collectively these documents will explore the presence of wild animals, their habits, and human behaviors in response to their presence in our domesticated landscape and the ways in which these relationships change over extended periods of time. The project fuses art, ecology, and the use of technology to promote conversations across disciplines regarding built vs. natural environments, domestic and wild spaces, human/animal interactions, and virtual interfaces for experiencing the natural world.