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AT GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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ERIN MORRISON

Inimica Tyrannis America

Enamel and trace steel on gypsum cement

51" x 42"

2019

Erin Morrison creates artworks that explore complex aspects of US history via the unique technique of bas relief - shallow relief sculpture. Morrison uses linoleum stencils, poured resin, and faux aging techniques to create a super-sized interpretation of an original artifact, encouraging the viewer to zoom into the historical details.

Morrison's research found an early prototype design for the 1785 Inimica Tyrannis America, which was to be the first copper piece circulated in the US. Morrison realized this design by Paul Revere revealed several historical ironies.

First, the Latin phrase "Inimica Tyrannis America" roughly translated at the time to "America Fiercely Opposes Tyranny." However, its literal translation today could be read as "Hostile Tyrant, America." Second, the central female, Indigenous figure was intended to personify "Lady Liberty." Yet, the person who symbolizes an empowered defender of the Republic, armed with one foot on the British Crown, is actually an oppressed subject suffering at the hands of the newly formed Union.



Inimica Tyrannis America, Enamel and trace steel on gypsum cement, 51" x 42",
2019

DETAIL IMAGES:



◀ **HANA KARK**

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