



NEW YORK SEATTLE

CULTURAL

A Three-Story Tree Acts as a Scaffold for a Growing Community in a Mural by
Ethan Murrow

MAY 20, 2020

GRACE EBERT



"The Garden" in Seattle. All images © Ethan Murrow, by Julia Featheringill and Stewart Clements

Winston Wächter Fine Art, Inc.

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In a 53-foot mural of exposed roots and tangled branches, Boston-based artist [Ethan Murrow](#) ([previously](#)) situates an energetic construction site manned by human workers, who heave their materials and balance across taught ropes. “The Garden” is replete with scaffolding, small tool sheds, and suspended orbs of sod and lumber among the sturdy boughs. With flags staked on its top, the tree serves as an organic backdrop for the humans’ manufactured expansion. Evidenced by the figure raising a tree branch to the sky in the top left corner, though, the workers’ actions often appear peculiar and inconsequential.

In [a statement](#), Murrow explains that his scenic works are rooted in United States history and culture. Whereas traditional narratives are founded on the idea that progress and human superiority are natural, the artist works to subvert those assumptions.

“As our world leaks and creaks forward, landscape can act as the ultimate term and representation of the joys and foibles of our actions. Landscape is an aesthetic ideal, an edited view of reality that suits the maker—in essence, a fiction. For me, the word has come to define our use of images and stories to convince ourselves of who we are, what we know to be true, and what we wish was fact.”

Rendered in high flow acrylic and paint pens, “The Garden” is installed at Expedia Group headquarters in Seattle. Many of Murrow’s projects that are concerned with historical narratives and human progress can be found on [Instagram](#).

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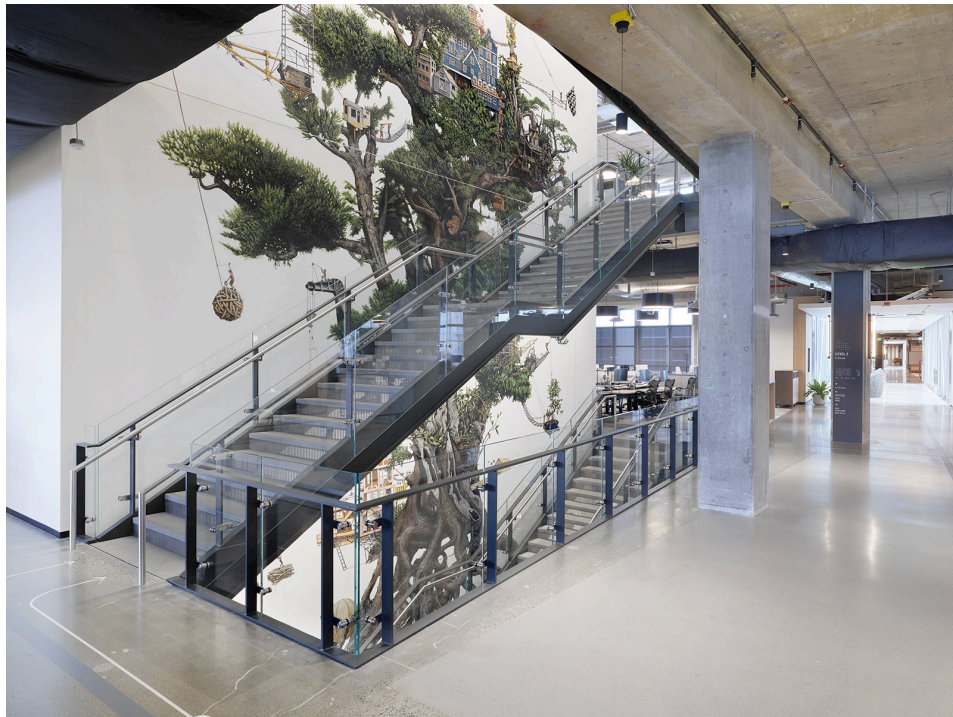
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