



ARTS & CULTURE

The bridge tower had a resident. She made a film.

Freyja Whitney grew up in Ballard's Sunset Hill neighborhood and would get stuck, like all locals, waiting on the bridge. She would pause and look up at the towers.

"I've always stood and just wondered...is anyone in there? What is going on?"

This year she found out what was inside. Whitney is a freelance animator and illustrator now based in Seattle's Ravenna neighborhood, and was selected for the 2025 SDOT Bridge Artist in Residence program. It's a partnership between the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture and the Seattle Department of Transportation that embeds artists in the historic towers of the Fremont and University Bridges. Her assignment location was the northwest tower, the one that features the Rapunzel sculpture.

In June, Whitney emerged from the Rapunzel tower with "Life in the Cut," an 18-

minute documentary short now available free to watch on YouTube. The film blends Whitney's hand-crafted animation with interview audio from three people who know the bridge from very different vantage points.

The artistic process was deliberately handmade. Whitney carved an entire typeface into linoleum blocks, printing each letter by hand up to 10 times to achieve a gradient of ink density she could use to animate text on screen. She wanted the film to carry the same texture as the bridge itself.

The physical work from Whitney's process remains on display at ARTS at King Street Station, 303 S. Jackson St., Top Floor, through Aug. 8. The gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and until 8 p.m. on First Thursday.

**Watch free on YouTube:
Search "Life in the Cut Fremont Bridge"**

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