

## Activating Alleys: Spatial Strategies of Abstract Painting

### Thesis Study

Exploring art and architecture's affect on an urban community

2020-2021

Providing identity and activation to alleys that lack color, light, and occupation by deploying interventions that focus on strategies of layering, entanglement, and movement.

There are few public recreational areas in the tight living spaces of a city. In the case of Boston, specifically Back Bay and the South End, alleys have been reduced to spaces for trash, parking, and back of house access. There is an opportunity to redesign them to provide recreational space with a community aspect in mind.

Analysis of Abstract Expressionist painting as active compositions generates specific architectural language to activate and provide a common identity across the alleys. Spatial strategies of layering, entanglement, and movement are identified from abstract painting and translated into a kit of parts of architectural interventions that provide opportunities for different activities. The kit of parts is made up of elements that define threshold, provide partial enclosure, and evoke a multitude of community interactions.

