

# *The Foreman*

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## *Build Guide*

Everything you need to find workers,  
assemble the installation, and bring it to life.

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Ars Electronica 2026 · Interactive Art+

Stanford, California



# What's Inside

*This guide covers everything from finding the right workers to the final installation check. Written so anyone can follow along – no technical background needed.*

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# Part 1: Finding the Right Workers

We need two people to help build this installation over two days. Here's how to find them.

## What We're Looking For

- Someone comfortable with furniture assembly (IKEA-level)
- Careful with small electronics (nothing fancy, just gentle hands)
- Good at following illustrated step-by-step instructions
- Available for two full days (Day 1 and Day 2)
- Works well with a partner – some steps need two people

## Where to Look

Post on TaskRabbit under "Furniture Assembly & Installation." You can also try general handyman listings. We're in the San Francisco Bay Area / Stanford area.

## What to Post

Job title: Furniture Assembly & Art Installation (2-day project)

Here's what to tell candidates:

- It's a 2-day project assembling a custom art installation
- We have detailed IKEA-style illustrated manuals for every step
- The work includes building a frame, mounting a TV, draping fabric, and stringing lights
- Some electronics placement (just positioning and plugging in, nothing complex)
- Budget: about \$25/hour, roughly 4 hours each day

## Screening Checklist

- 4+ star rating on the platform
- Available for both days
- Rate within budget (~\$25/hr)
- Local to Stanford / Bay Area
- Quick to respond, professional tone
- Experience with furniture or installation work

## Message Template

*Copy and personalize this for each candidate:*

*Hi [Name],*

*We're working on an art project for a European festival and need help with a 2-day installation in Stanford. The work involves assembling a frame structure, mounting a monitor, draping fabric, and stringing fairy lights.*

*We have really detailed illustrated instructions (think IKEA manuals) so you'll know exactly what to do at every step. It's straightforward but needs attention to detail.*

*Are you available for both days? What's your hourly rate?*

*Looking forward to hearing from you!*

# Part 2: Before You Start

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## What's in the Box

Before starting, lay everything out and check you have:

- Metal grid wall panels (2-pack)
- TV wall mount bracket
- 24-inch monitor / TV
- Sheer voile chiffon fabric (wide roll)
- Fairy lights (33ft, 100 LEDs, warm white)
- Extension cord with surge protector (25ft)
- Weatherproof outdoor power strip
- Raspberry Pi (small computer – comes pre-configured)
- Small camera module
- 2x mini microphones
- Wireless microphone
- Zip ties, cable clips, mounting hardware

If anything is missing, stop and let the team know before starting.

## Safety First

- Keep your workspace clean and organized
- Be gentle with all electronics – they're delicate
- Use two people for any heavy lifting
- Keep cables away from walkways (trip hazard)
- Work in daylight or good lighting

## The Game Plan

Day 1 (about 6 hours): Build the frame, mount the screen, start fabric draping

Day 2 (about 4 hours): Finish fabric, string lights, connect electronics, final checks

Take breaks. Don't rush. Quality matters more than speed.

## Part 3: Building the Frame

The frame is the skeleton of the installation. Take your time here – everything else mounts to it.

### 1 Lay Out Frame Pieces

- Find all the frame components and lay them on a flat surface
- Sort by size: long pieces (verticals), short pieces (horizontal), connectors
- Count everything and match against the parts list

Take a photo of all parts laid out before starting

### 2 Assemble the Base

- Connect the two long horizontal pieces with corner connectors
- Make sure the base sits flat on the ground – no wobbling
- Tighten all bolts firmly but don't over-torque (hand-tight + quarter turn)

If the base wobbles, loosen and re-align before tightening

### 3 Attach Vertical Supports

- Slide vertical pieces into the base connectors
- Two people needed: one holds, one tightens
- Check with a level (or phone level app) – must be straight
- Tighten in a star pattern (opposite corners) for even pressure

### 4 Complete the Top Frame

- Attach top horizontal pieces to create a rectangular frame
- This is like building a door frame – rectangle shape
- Push hard on each corner – should not flex or wobble

Use a level on all four faces. Adjust before moving on.

### 5 Stability Check

- Frame stands on its own without support
- No wobbling when you push gently from any side
- All bolts are tight
- Frame is level and square

*If anything feels loose or unstable, fix it now. Everything else depends on this.*

## Part 4: Mounting the Screen

### 6 Attach the Wall Mount to the Frame

- The TV mount goes on the frame at about eye level (1.2 meters up)
- Use the pre-marked holes in the frame
- Secure with all provided bolts – don't skip any
- Two people: one holds the bracket, one fastens

### 7 Hang the Monitor

- Carefully lift the monitor and hook it onto the mount
- Two people required – monitors are awkward to handle alone

Be very gentle. Don't press on the screen surface.

- Click or lock the monitor into the mount (you'll feel/hear it)
- Gently try to pull it off to confirm it's locked in place

### 8 Adjust the Screen

- Tilt the screen so it faces slightly downward (about 5 degrees)
- This is so people standing in front of it can see clearly
- Make sure it's centered on the frame

Step back 6 feet and check – does it look straight and centered?

## Part 5: Draping the Fabric

*The sheer fabric creates the ethereal, dreamy look. This is where the art starts to come alive.*

### 9 Cut the Fabric

- *Unroll the voile fabric on a clean surface*
- *You need pieces to drape behind and around the frame*
- *Cut two pieces: one for behind the screen, one to drape over the top and sides*

*Handle gently – this fabric snags easily*

### 10 Drape Behind the Screen

- *Attach the first piece to the back of the frame using clips*
- *Let it hang naturally – don't pull it taut*
- *The fabric should billow slightly, creating depth*
- *It's okay if it touches the ground – that adds to the effect*

### 11 Drape Over the Top

- *Lay the second piece over the top of the frame*
- *Let it cascade down the sides unevenly – asymmetry is beautiful*
- *Leave the front of the screen visible (don't cover the TV!)*
- *Secure with clips where needed, but keep it looking natural*

*Stand back and adjust. It should look soft and flowing, not stretched.*

## Part 6: Weaving the Lights

### 12 Plan the Light Path

- The fairy lights create a halo effect around the upper half
- Before plugging anything in, plan your route
- Start from the bottom left, weave upward and across
- Mark your planned path with small pieces of tape

### 13 String the Lights

- Begin at the bottom of the left vertical support
- Weave through the fabric and frame, following your marked path
- Use clips every 30cm (about 1 foot) to secure the strand
- Space lights evenly – about 10cm (4 inches) apart

Don't bunch or overlap the lights – even spacing is key

- Concentrate more lights around the top and behind the screen

### 14 Test the Lights

- Plug in and turn on
- Stand back and check the effect
- Adjust any spots that look too bright or too dark

The warm glow should feel like a soft halo, not a spotlight

## Part 7: Connecting Electronics

*Good news: all electronics come pre-configured. You just need to position and plug them in.*

### 15 Position the Raspberry Pi

- *The Pi is a small green circuit board (credit card sized)*
- *Mount it behind the frame, out of sight*
- *Use the provided mounting tape or clips*
- *Make sure it's secure and won't fall*

*Handle by the edges only. Don't touch the metal parts.*

### 16 Connect the Camera

- *The small camera module plugs into the Pi*
- *Position it near the top of the frame, facing outward (toward visitors)*
- *Use a clip to hold it steady*
- *The ribbon cable is fragile – route it carefully along the frame*

### 17 Place the Microphones

- *Position the two mini USB microphones near the screen*
- *One on each side works well*
- *Plug them into the Pi's USB ports*
- *The wireless mic is for workers to wear during documentation*

### 18 Connect Screen to Pi

- *Run an HDMI cable from the Pi to the monitor*
- *Tuck the cable along the frame – keep it hidden*
- *The screen should show Giuseppe's face when powered on*

## Part 8: Power & Cable Management

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### 19 Set Up Power

- Position the surge protector near the base of the frame
- Run the 25ft extension cord to the nearest outlet
- Plug in: monitor, Pi, fairy lights

Keep all connections off the ground if outdoors (use the weatherproof strip)

- Make sure no cables cross walkways – trip hazard

### 20 Tidy the Cables

- Bundle loose cables with zip ties
- Route cables along the frame, hidden by fabric where possible
- Use cable clips to secure runs along vertical supports
- Check that no cable is pulling tight or under stress

Step back and look: you shouldn't see any cables from the front

# Part 9: Final Checks & Documentation

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## Everything Working?

- Frame is stable and level
- Screen powers on and displays correctly
- Fairy lights work and look even
- Camera is positioned and connected
- Microphones are in place
- All cables are tidy and secured
- Fabric looks natural and beautiful
- No trip hazards
- No sharp edges or protruding bolts

## Take Photos

Documentation is essential – this is an art project. Photograph everything.

- Wide-angle shot of the complete installation
- Close-ups of the screen, fabric, lights
- Detail shots of connections and cable management
- Photos showing your hands during the build (for the film)
- A photo of the team standing with the finished piece

## Ongoing Care

Once it's running:

- Check daily for loose bolts (vibration can loosen them)
- Wipe the screen weekly (dust collects)
- Inspect fabric for tears or staining
- Check for dead fairy light bulbs (extras provided)
- Can run continuously – power is managed by surge protector

# Thank You

Your hands built something meaningful.

This installation – The Foreman – is an AI art piece about the relationship between artificial intelligence and human labor. By following these instructions, you became part of the artwork itself.

The work you did here will be documented and submitted to Ars Electronica, one of the world's most prestigious festivals for art, technology, and society.

Built by real hands. Directed by an AI.  
That's the whole point.

Giuseppe · Prashaant · Andreas  
Stanford, California · 2026