

RUTH MARSHALL

Community-Based Public Art Consultant | Public Artist | Participatory Installation Specialist

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ruthmarshall.com

Currently:

1645 Paulding Ave
Bronx NY 10462-3106
United States

Relocating to Australia

July 2026:

Unit 704/318 Little
Lonsdale St, Melbourne
VIC 3000

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Community-based public art consultant and public artist with over 30 years of professional practice specializing in participatory ecological installations in civic and environmental contexts. Expertise in designing scalable engagement systems that enable diverse communities to contribute meaningfully to complex public artworks.

Extensive experience delivering grant-funded public art commissions in partnership with government agencies, cultural institutions, conservation organizations, and community stakeholders. Proven ability to manage full project lifecycles including concept development, community engagement strategy, fabrication oversight, installation logistics, and public programming.

Background includes 14 years as an exhibit sculptor with the Wildlife Conservation Society and over 20 years teaching at the School of Visual Arts. Work focuses on ecological awareness, environmental stewardship, and community connection through participatory craft-based systems.

CORE CONSULTING EXPERTISE

- Community-engaged public art strategy and design
- Participatory systems design for public art
- Public art project planning and delivery
- Civic and environmentally focused public art
- Stakeholder engagement and facilitation
- Public art commissioning processes
- Outdoor installation design and implementation
- Project management, logistics, and fabrication coordination
- Grant-funded public art delivery
- Cross-sector collaboration with government, cultural, and environmental partners

CONSULTING AND PUBLIC ART PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Lead Artist and Public Art Consultant

New York, USA and International | 2007–Present

Design and delivery of community-based public art installations, engagement programs, and ecological art initiatives commissioned by local government agencies, cultural organizations, and environmental institutions.

Selected Consulting and Public Art Projects

Art for Habitat #2

Metro Pollinator Habitat, Hutchinson River Greenway, Bronx NY | 2025–ongoing

Commissioned public artwork and conservation engagement program funded by Bronx Council on the Arts and New York State Council on the Arts. Designed participatory framework enabling public contribution to ecological installation supporting pollinator awareness.

Muliner Playground Public Art and Community Engagement Project

NYC Parks and Bronx Council on the Arts | 2025

Public art installation and engagement program for civic recreational space. Developed participatory methodology and oversaw installation delivery.

Crochet Circles – Soundview Economic Hub Activation

Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, Bronx NY | 2024

Designed and implemented community engagement framework for site activation through participatory installation.

Art for Habitat

Metro Pollinator Habitat, Bronx NY | 2024

Public art and ecological education initiative integrating conservation themes with community participation.

Morris Park Flowers Public Installation

NYC Parks and Morris Park Business Improvement District | 2023

Permanent outdoor installation developed through community engagement and public participation.

Hanging Garden Public Art Project

Morris Park Community Garden, Bronx NY | 2022

Grant-funded participatory public artwork focused on environmental themes and community engagement.

Plastic in the Air Public Art Installation

Presbyterian Senior Services, Bronx NY | 2020

Community-based installation addressing environmental sustainability and plastic waste awareness.

Poetry in the Air Public Art Installation

Parkchester Library, Bronx NY | 2019

Participatory public installation commissioned through municipal arts funding.

Art in the Air Public Art Program

New York Public Library and Bronx Council on the Arts | 2017–2018

Designed scalable engagement system enabling public contribution to installation.

PUBLIC ART RESIDENCIES AND COMMISSIONS (SELECTED)

Artist Residency

Chateau D'Orquevaux, France | 2024

Artist Residency

Icelandic Textile Center, Iceland | 2021

Artist Residency

Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York | 2015

Artist Residency

Montsalvat Artists Colony, Melbourne, Australia | 2011

Artist Residency

Museum of Arts and Design, New York | 2010

EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS (SELECTED INSTITUTIONS)

Selected venues include:

- Hudson River Museum, New York
- New York Botanical Garden, New York
- National Museum of Wildlife Art, Wyoming
- Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arizona
- Museum of Arts and Design, New York
- Textile Museum, Washington DC
- Montsalvat Centre for the Arts, Melbourne
- National Wool Museum, Geelong

ENVIRONMENTAL AND INSTITUTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Exhibit Sculptor

Wildlife Conservation Society

Bronx Zoo, New York | 1995–2009

Designed and fabricated permanent sculptural exhibits for zoological and educational environments. Developed expertise in durable outdoor materials, environmental storytelling, and public-facing educational installations.

TEACHING AND FACILITATION EXPERIENCE

Drawing Instructor

School of Visual Arts, New York | 2005–Present

College-level instruction in drawing, visual communication, and conceptual development.

Community Arts Facilitator

New York Public Library and community organizations | 2016–Present

Designed and delivered community engagement programs supporting participatory public art projects.

GRANTS AND COMMISSIONS (SELECTED)

Bronx Council on the Arts and New York State Council on the Arts
Community Arts Grants | 2017–2025

Multiple grant-funded public art commissions supporting community-based installations and ecological art initiatives.

AWARDS

BRIO Award (Bronx Recognizes Its Own)
Bronx Council on the Arts | 2007, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2024

Anne & Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarship
University of South Australia | 1993

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts
Pratt Institute, New York

Bachelor of Fine Arts
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Melbourne

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY EXPERIENCE

Advisory Committee Member
Longwood Arts Project | Bronx Council on the Arts | 2021–2023

Provided strategic advisory input on artist programming and public art initiatives.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Associated Artist

The Wye, Berlin, Germany | 2002–Present

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESS

Coverage in major publications including:

Hyperallergic

Wall Street Journal

Fiber Art Now

Textile Fibre Forum

Vogue Knitting Magazine

Thames & Hudson publications

AVAILABILITY

Available for consulting roles including:

- Public art strategy development
- Community engagement design
- Public art commissioning and delivery
- Environmental public art projects
- Civic and government public art programs

Relocating permanently to Melbourne, Australia – June 2026