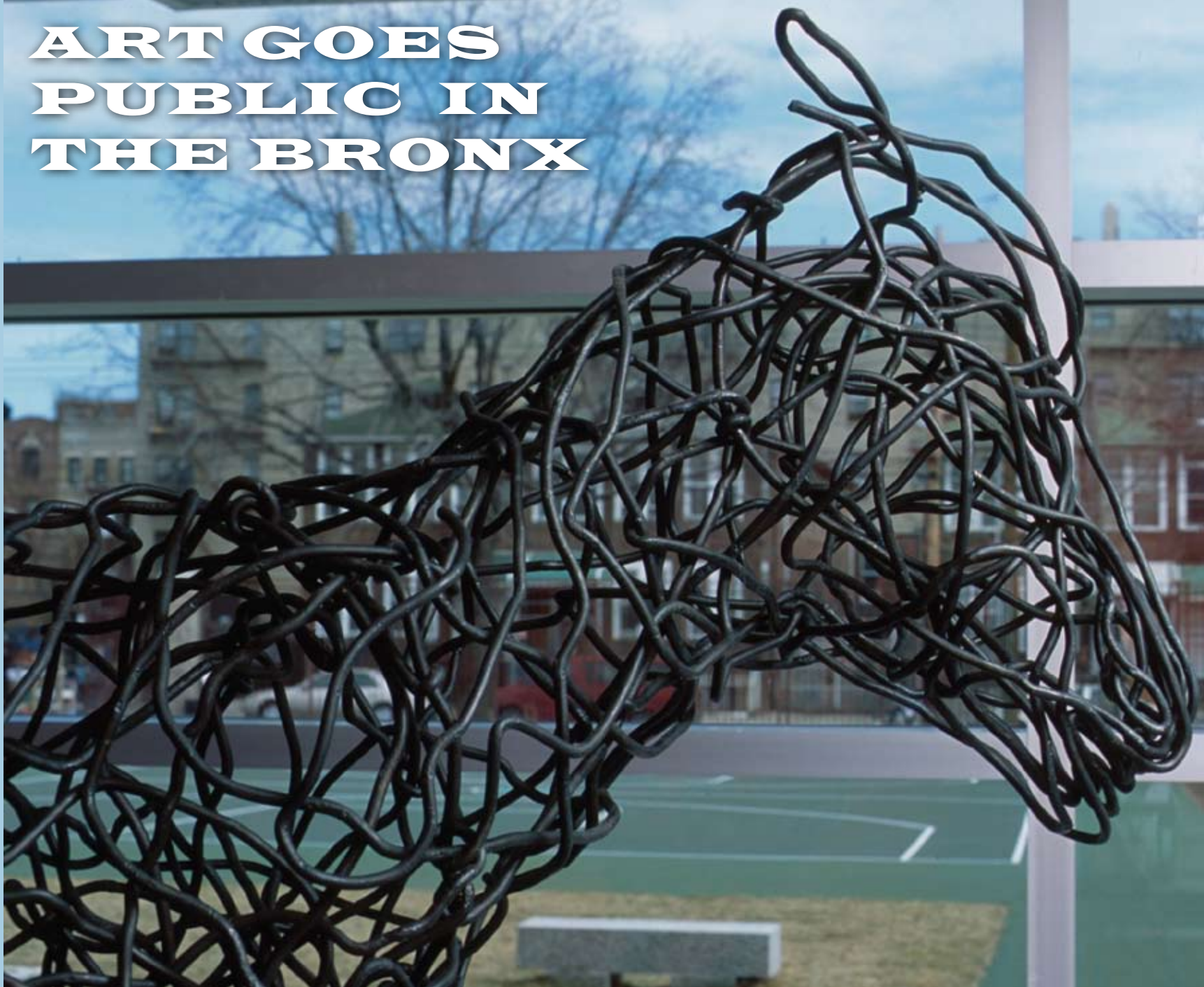


ART GOES PUBLIC IN THE BRONX



Monica Banks, *Louisa and Rusty*, 2002, steel, Hunts Point Recreation Center, 765 Manida Street, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation Percent for Art Program, Lehman College Art Gallery www.lehman.edu/publicart

Public Art in the Bronx, a Web site project of Lehman College Art Gallery / City University of New York, examines the rich collection of public art found in our borough. This site provides an overview of works in public places from the earliest created in the 19th century, those produced under the WPA, as well as the more recent projects being produced under such agencies as Percent for Art, Arts for Transit, the Health and Hospital Corporation, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the New York State Dormitory Authority, and the Public Art Fund.

This collection includes work by major artists, among them are Vito Acconci, Alice Adams, John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres, Charles Alston, Romare Bearden, Jackie Ferrara, Rafael Ferrer, Walton Ford, Helen Frankenthaler, Daniel Chester French, Malvina Hoffman, Komar and Melamid, Paul Manship, Dennis Oppenheim, Tom Otterness, Howardena Pindell, Ben Shahn and Bernarda Bryson Shahn, Faith Ringgold, Tim Rollins + KOS, Carrie Mae Weems, and many others.

Distributed throughout the Bronx, these projects exist in virtually every neighborhood in the public schools, fire stations, libraries, government buildings, subway stations and parks. Public Art in the

Monica Banks created two large steel sculptures for the Hunts Point Recreation Center: *Louisa*, a horse located outside the basketball court, and *Rusty*, a dog located in the lobby near the front desk. Both sculptures were forged from continuous steel rods and each resembles a three-dimensional line drawing. The artist explained that by installing these “functionless” sculptures at a recreation center, she hoped to inspire children’s interest in creating and admiring works of art.

Monica Banks currently lives and works in East Hampton, NY. After graduating from Vassar with a degree in Philosophy, she went on to study design at Domus Academy in Milan, and metalworking at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. Banks creates sculptural projects using beads, reconfigured jewelry, and constructions with bits of detritus gleaned from daily life, all joined together by pieces of twisted wire. She also uses photography to document the experience of her work, making the pictures the art. Banks sees this as a new way to relate to her interest in installation pieces and their temporality.

Banks’ work has been featured in solo exhibitions and included in group exhibitions. Her public works include, in addition to the Hunts Point sculptures, *Faces: Times Square*, permanent 166 foot sculptural fence on traffic median between Seventh Ave. and Broadway, New York NY, 1996; and *Sketches*, permanent installation, Levine Children’s Hospital, Charlotte NC, 2007.

continued on page15

BRONX LITERATURE

Written on the Subway Walls

Béatrice Coron was born and raised in France and studied at the University of Lyon and École des Beaux-Arts de Lyon. After living in Egypt and Mexico, she found her creative home in New York City. Coron is an internationally exhibited artist who uses the cutout method in her art. Often created as multiples, the works are hand-cut from Tyvek. First introduced to this process in her homeland, Coron was further exposed to cutting techniques while living in China. In the last ten years, she has established herself as a full-time artist, refining her self-taught technique. Usually working in the book arts, her work can be found in museum collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery of Art, and the Bibliotheque Nationale of France. She has received numerous public art commissions including the Burke Avenue train station in the Bronx through the MTA Arts for Transit program, NYC; and the Kostner subway station, Chicago, IL through the Chicago Transit Authority Commission administered by the City of Chicago's Public Art Program.

These faceted glass windscreens at the Burke Avenue Station celebrate the borough's rich literary heritage that encompasses the voices of Edgar Allan Poe, Mark Twain, Shalom Aleichem, Jack Kerouac, Countee Cullen, Cynthia Ozick, Grace



Béatrice Coron, *Bronx Literature*, 2006, faceted glass windscreens, MTA Arts for Transit, 2 and 5 Train Lines, Burke Avenue Station, Burke Avenue & White Plains Road

Paley, Allen Ginsberg, Chaim Potok, E.L. Doctorow, and many others.

In *Bronx Literature*, artist Béatrice Coron portrays four great writers' works including Edgar Allan Poe's *Ulalume and Other Poems*; Sholem Aleichem's *Motel, the Cantor's Son*; James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*; and Nicholasa Mohr's *El Bronx Remembered*. The writers featured on these glassworks tell stories of the borough from colonial times to contem-

porary community developments. Each writer's story or poem gives us a window on a particular neighborhood at a particular time.

Images in each of the panels include depictions of people reading — a common activity on trains. Like the commuter who travels in linear fashion, the works of these four writers help us travel through time and space, into different social classes and communities.

From Electric City, Washington to Electric Rails, The Bronx

As one approaches the Riverdale Station, four colorful metal sculpture houses jut out of the mass of trees where the station is located, a stone's throw from the Hudson River. Bright bursts of yellow, orange and blue reach up out of the dense foliage and seem to be ascending and descending in the same way the sun rises and sets.

Conceptual artist Dennis Oppenheim explains: "This work evokes the daily cycle of commuters, those who leave in the morning and return at night. Instead of the sun rising and setting, the neighborhood itself is shown engaging in a similar movement from the bright, early morning to the dark, late evening." For many commuters, this low-relief outdoor sculpture reminds them that they leave their homes when the sun rises and return when it sets.

Oppenheim was born in Electric City, Washington and lived in Honolulu, California before moving to New York in 1966, where he continues to live and work. He received his BFA from the School of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, California, and his MFA from Stanford University, Palo Alto, California. Oppenheim was influenced by Earth Art that relied on photography for physical and ephemeral communication that he believed was essential to the era and work of the 1960s, the decade that he came into prominence. He is considered a pioneer in conceptual, earthworks, body art, video and sculpture. Oppenheim's work is included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; Lumier Sculpture Park, St. Louis, MO; the Kunshaus, Zurich, Switzerland; the Musee National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France; the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; and the Tate Gallery, London, England. His work has been presented in many exhibitions including Documenta X, Kassel, Germany; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; Stefan Stux Gallery, New York, NY; and the 1997 Venice Biennale. Oppenheim has received numerous commissions from public and private institutions. Among his many installations is *Rising and Setting*, commissioned by the MTA Arts for Transit program and permanently installed at Metro North's Riverdale Train Station.



Dennis Oppenheim, *Rising and Setting Neighborhood*, 2006, Perforated painted steel, sculpture on station grounds, Metro-North, Riverdale Station, West 254th Street MTA Arts for Transit

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Naomi Campbell, *Animal Tracks*, 2005, faceted glass in platform windscreens; MTA Arts for Transit
East Tremont Avenue Station, East Tremont Ave. at 177th Street

Animals In Their Natural World Populate a Train Station

This faceted glass installation at the West Farms Square–East Tremont Avenue station is located near the world famous Bronx Zoo. The artist, Naomi Campbell, has drawn on her memories of visiting the zoo as a child and her background in art and animal sciences. She transforms the environment completely by bringing the idea of an oasis up onto the station platform. Going back to her old sketchbooks filled with an assortment of animals in all kinds of shapes and poses is what provided the starting point for this fiesta of animals.

Naomi Campbell's fourteen panels feature animals in a variety of postures and settings. Complex compositions with layers of color and texture place the animals in lush settings and depict an urban jungle. Using the animals and abstraction of shapes, Campbell creates a new world for the aboveground platform. Her vivid colors and shapes create a kinetic movement, giving emotional depth and sculptural quality to the otherwise flat medium of glasswork. The idea of bridges marks her work here. Campbell explains that she is "bridging community, global and interpersonal bridges through a labyrinth of environments formed in glass and touched by the nature of the sun." *Animal Tracks* serves as a reminder of animals and the natural world for travelers passing through this busy urban train station.

Canadian-born Naomi Campbell studied at the CEGEP de Champlain, Lennoxville, et de Valleyfield, Quebec and University of Guelph, Ontario, before moving to New York in 1994. She studied painting, printmaking and drawing at the Art Students' League of New York. Campbell's work explores the expressive nature of the materials valid to each piece. It has been included in many group exhibitions including the Japanese Contemporary Prints Invitational, Gallery of Graphic Arts, NYC, PaineWebber UBS Art Gallery, NYC, Lehman College Art Gallery, Bronx, NY, The Gallery on Lafayette, Trenton, NJ, and Heidi Cho Gallery, NY. Her work is in public collections including *Animal Tracks*, Arts for Transit, Division of the MTA of New York; American University Public Gallery, Washington, DC, the 2000 Cow Parade of New York at 1251 Avenue of the Americas, NYC; and most recently at the #2 line East Tremont / Bronx Zoo train station commissioned by the MTA Arts for Transit program.

Lehman College Art Gallery, cont'd.

Bronx has been developed as a multimedia guide for elementary school teachers and is intended to enrich the classroom curriculum by exploring the potential of web-based learning and by focusing on the extraordinary cultural resources within the community. We also hope this Web guide will provide a useful resource for the general public and encourage exploration of public art in the Bronx.

Public Art in the Bronx includes entries for over one hundred major public art projects in the Bronx. These can be searched in the indexes by Artists as well as by Sites. Information about the artists can be found in Biographies. The gallery gathered the listings of many agencies and has posted every project we found in the Bronx Public

Art Inventory section of this guide. In addition, there are links to art related agencies and organizations listed in the Resources section of the site.

Ideas for Teachers are intended to assist elementary educators in connecting site visits to meaningful in-class projects that link to the curriculum. Each lesson plan follows the National Standards for Visual Arts Education and the New York City Strands of Art Education.

The Neighborhoods section features historical backgrounds on thirty-six Bronx neighborhoods and is illustrated with archival photographs from the collection of the Bronx Institute. In addition Walking Tours and Maps to public art projects have been developed, divided by neighborhoods.