



G R O U N D S F O R S C U L P T U R E

Grounds For Sculpture Announces *Perspectives*, a New Series to Launch in Spring 2023 with Inaugural Exhibitions *Spiral Q: The Parade* and *Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits*

Hamilton, NJ – December 15, 2022 – Grounds For Sculpture will present two exhibitions in Spring 2023, launching a new series, ***Perspectives***, that will explore the role of art in conveying, interpreting, and sharing the voices and experiences of individuals and communities, working in partnership with GFS’ regional audiences. One of the exhibitions—***Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits***—will provide a multi-faceted portrait of the Indian community in New Jersey through oral histories as well as visual and audio resources assembled by artist, teacher, and journalist **Madhusmita Bora**; while the second exhibition, ***Spiral Q: The Parade***, will focus on the locally and nationally recognized puppet making organization, Spiral Q, with its rich history of take it to the street advocacy processions for social and political change.

Both exhibitions will be on view from April 23, 2023, through January 7, 2024, in Grounds For Sculpture’s Domestic Arts Building.

“As a sculpture park, museum, and arboretum, Grounds For Sculpture explores the interplay between art and nature. We are committed to engaging and challenging visitors of all ages and backgrounds with exhibitions and collections presenting the work of contemporary artists through sculpture,” said **Gary Garrido Schneider, Executive Director** of Grounds For Sculpture. “The new ***Perspectives*** series will turn a spotlight on the many ways contemporary artists are reflecting on our world and responding to subjects and issues of today, many of whom are advocating for positive social and political change individually and within their communities.”

Kathleen Ogilvie Greene, Chief Audience Officer at Grounds For Sculpture and lead curator of both exhibitions, added, “Both of our upcoming shows are an opportunity for us to get to know our audiences better, through artist-led and community-driven exhibitions. Both Spiral Q and Madhu Bora have been amazing partners and we are excited to present personal, individual stories within one show and the power of our collective voices in the other. I’m particularly delighted to be working on both exhibitions with co-curator Quentin Williams, who brings his expertise as a curator, activist, poet, and marketer to the team. We look forward to presenting these exhibitions to our visitors in April.”

Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits

April 23, 2023 - January 7, 2024

Grounds For Sculpture is partnering with **Madhusmita Bora**—a folk and traditional artist, teacher, writer, and activist, as well as an Assamese-American dancer and founder of Sattriya Dance Company—to go hyperlocal as she gathers oral histories from within New Jersey’s robust Indian community. This exhibition will showcase large-format portraits on view, hanging banners, personal objects of meaning, and video and audio clips of individuals sharing personal stories. Stories will be shared in English and the native languages of the storytellers. Participants in this project reflect a broad scope of this community through the lens of ability, age, economics, education,

immigration status, language, religion, and sexual orientation. Join us as we stay hyperlocal and focus on the intimate stories that connect us through love, loss, and resilience.

This exhibition is Artist Led, Community Driven, presenting an opportunity to engage our community with the lead artist's creative practice, while encouraging community members to express their stories, ideas, and passions through the artist's medium, or process, of choice.

Public programs accompanying **Local Voices** will include a spring performance by [Sattriya Dance Company](#), pop-up performances in the summer by multidisciplinary artists responding to the exhibition, and a storytelling workshop and panel discussion to round out the year.

Grounds For Sculpture is also working with the [South Asian American Digital Archive](#) (SAADA) as a preservation partner, to ensure that the stories shared within this exhibition will be archived permanently for the benefit of future generations.

Spiral Q: The Parade

April 23, 2023 - January 7, 2024

Spiral Q: The Parade is an exhibition rooted in communal and collective advocacy. This exhibition will include a site-specific installation highlighting Spiral Q's rich history of social justice through memorial tributes, banner creation, wearable puppets, and large-scale puppet creations. More than 50 objects will be on view in the gallery, all of which are created by Spiral Q with and for individuals advocating for their communities on topics ranging from housing insecurity to voting rights and much more.

Founded in 1996, Spiral Q is a Philadelphia-based, non-profit organization that has become widely known for its originality, capacity to inspire individuals of all ages and backgrounds, and ability to creatively invigorate communities. They use artmaking, organizing, and their own inquiry-based methodology to model and teach practical skills in collaboration, community organizing, advocacy, and identifying and mobilizing shared resources.

Spiral Q works with around 3,000 individuals each year and brings their public work to audiences of approximately 30,000 annually. Their mission is "to build strong and equitable communities characterized by creativity, joy, can-do attitudes, and the courage to act on their convictions."

They are perhaps best known for producing parades and community festivals based on the creative and cultural traditions and practices of the people involved. These events are designed to create space for creative self- and community expression; to spotlight visual, movement, and musical artists; and to bring communities together.

Spiral Q will lead a week-long residency in spring 2023 at Artworks Trenton's visual arts center in downtown Trenton. Community members and organizations from Trenton will be invited to create puppets and banners for a potential two-mile procession from Artworks Trenton to Grounds For Sculpture. Select creations from the residency will then be displayed in the ***Spiral Q*** exhibition space at Grounds For Sculpture.

Additional programs will include an on-site maker space within the exhibition where participants can make their own protest signs; multiple public workshops throughout the summer and fall focused on puppet making for all ages; and a panel discussion with Spiral Q and community stakeholders at the end of the year.

“Spiral is a symbol of magic and emotion and power, but it comes from a small agitation like a tornado. Tornadoes don’t just happen, they come from very special environments and as more things are added to it the tornado gets stronger and stronger. It’s very focused. And Q is queer, it’s the unwanted, it’s the better left invisible, it’s the disgusting, the ones that shouldn’t be heard from. The ones that should be kept down. It’s the poor people’s theater; it’s very accessible. It can be an entryway to performance and theater that is very simple. It’s a form of personal justice.”

—Mattyboy Hart, founder of Spiral Q, quoted in 2001

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Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits and ***Spiral Q: The Parade*** Generous exhibition support by the Brooke Barrie Art Fund and NRG, and supported in part by the Atlantic Foundation, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel & Tourism, and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Follow Grounds For Sculpture on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), using the hashtag #groundsforsculpture.

About Grounds For Sculpture

Grounds For Sculpture is a 42-acre, not-for-profit sculpture park, arboretum, and museum founded by the late Seward Johnson. Featuring more than 300 contemporary sculptures by renowned and emerging artists, in a beckoning landscape, Grounds For Sculpture combines art and nature to surprise, inspire, and engage visitors from all backgrounds in the artist’s act of invention. In addition to its permanent collection, Grounds For Sculpture offers rotating special exhibitions in its six indoor galleries, rich educational programs, and dynamic interactive family events. With an interdisciplinary focus on art and nature, Grounds For Sculpture actively explores wellness and well-being through its ongoing programming and visitor offerings. Located in Hamilton, New Jersey, Grounds For Sculpture is easily accessible from both the New York City and Philadelphia metropolitan areas by public transit and is open year-round. For more information, visit groundsforsculpture.org.

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