



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

EXHIBITION AT GROUNDS FOR SCULPTURE PAYS TRIBUTE TO SPIRAL Q,  
an organization that uses creativity to build strong and equitable communities  
characterized by creativity, joy, can-do attitudes, and the courage to act on their  
convictions

Hamilton, NJ—March 23, 2023, updated May 23, 2023—Grounds For Sculpture is now presenting the site-specific exhibition *Spiral Q: The Parade*, to highlight Spiral Q, a community-based organization now in its 27th year, and its rich history of a take-to-the streets (real and virtual) approach to creating an unflinching and joyous commitment to justice and equality. Grounds For Sculpture is honored to present Spiral Q's first retrospective exhibition, showcasing their 27 years of community partnerships, creativity, and advocacy. A key part of their tenure at GFS is a three-week residency with Artworks Trenton, building to a public parade at Grounds For Sculpture.

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

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.

Both *Spiral Q: The Parade* and a second exhibition—*Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits*—opened on April 23, 2023, and will remain on view through January 7, 2024, in Grounds For Sculpture's Domestic Arts Building. They are the inaugural exhibitions in a new series, *Perspectives*, at Grounds For Sculpture. Through these two exhibitions, Grounds For Sculpture is exploring two distinct perspectives on storytelling: the collective voice through puppetry and the individual voice via personal narrative.

"With the launch of the *Perspectives* series, Grounds For Sculpture is taking on new levels of engagement with our audiences as we organize artist-led, community-driven exhibitions to deepen our understanding of how we—as artists, individuals, and communities—are reflecting on our world and responding to subjects and issues of today," said **Gary Garrido Schneider, Executive Director** of Grounds For Sculpture. "We remain committed to engaging and challenging visitors of all ages and backgrounds with exhibitions and collections that present the work of contemporary artists through sculpture, while developing greater understanding of our audiences through storytelling and listening to the voices of the communities around us."

**Kathleen Ogilvie Greene, Chief Audience Officer** at Grounds For Sculpture and lead curator of both exhibitions, added: "*Spiral Q: The Parade* is a powerful installation centering the passion, joy, and advocacy of Black and brown communities and their allies. Spiral Q, the arts and cultural organization, has a deeply personal educational and creative practice that brings the voice of individuals and communities forward and we're thrilled to bring that intentionality to our current and neighboring communities.

"During the month of July, Spiral Q will lead a series of workshops at Artworks Trenton," continued Kathleen Greene. "Their work will cumulate in a public procession on Saturday, July 29, at Grounds For Sculpture. The procession is a powerful interactive experience for individuals who participated in the workshops and equally as impactful for those who choose to show up and participate in the parade, or others who are lucky enough to discover the parade en route. The procession will start out in the neighborhood and will move through our front gates, creating a wandering path across our grounds. The large-scale puppet, banners, chants, and energy will call you to it!

"Quentin Williams, co-curator of both exhibitions, has been an amazing partner to work with. His expertise as a curator, activist, and poet has been invaluable."

The exhibition *Spiral Q: The Parade* showcases objects and installations that include tribute banners, posters, objects, and wearable puppets from previous parades and processions. More than 100 objects are on view in the gallery, all of which were created by Spiral Q in partnership with select communities and individuals advocating for change on a local, regional, and/or global scale. Each installation shares a distinct story about a community and, like many objects on display in museums around the world, these objects are not meant to be displayed as static offerings. They were created to be part of a collective procession with movement and energy from those who created the objects. To share the living nature of these items we'll have videos of parades and sharing a bit of the process. The exhibition is an opportunity for GFS to partner with Artworks Trenton to deepen our relationship with the Trenton community.

## Related Programs

Spiral Q will lead a three-week residency in summer 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 one-mile procession from 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 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 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

\* \* \*

*Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits* and *Spiral Q: The Parade* are made possible by major support from Marjorie Ogilvie and Miller Parker (PNAA Foundation) and The Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation. Additional generous support is provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Brooke Barrie Art Fund, Drs. Umesh and Sunanda Gaur, Holman, NRG, and PSE&G. Support is provided 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.

## Hours and Ticketing

-----

Both *Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits* and *Spiral Q: The Parade* are on view April 23, 2023 - January 7, 2024. Grounds For Sculpture is open Wednesday - Monday, 10-5 p.m. (closed Tuesday). For extended hours May - September, check the Grounds For Sculpture website: [groundsforsculpture.org](https://groundsforsculpture.org).

Advance timed ticket reservations are highly recommended to ensure entry. Capacity is limited and tickets often sell out on weekends and holidays. Member reservations are required on weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) and holidays. Tickets are available up to two weeks in advance and are released on a weekly basis.

Follow Grounds For Sculpture and the exhibitions *Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits* and *Spiral Q: The Parade* on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), and tag us using the hashtags #groundsforsculpture, #artistled, #communitydriven, and @groundsforsculpture.

## About Grounds For Sculpture

Grounds For Sculpture (GFS) is a 42-acre not-for-profit sculpture park, arboretum, and museum, founded by the late Seward Johnson. Featuring over 300 contemporary sculptures by renowned and emerging artists in a beckoning, ever-changing 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 exhibitions in six indoor galleries, alongside experiential art, horticulture, and wellness programs for all ages. Located in Hamilton, New Jersey, Grounds For Sculpture is easily accessible from the New York City and Philadelphia metropolitan areas by public transit and is open year-round. For more information, visit [groundsfor Sculpture.org](https://www.groundsfor Sculpture.org).

## Media Contact

Lauren Collalto  
Press Office, Grounds For Sculpture  
[press@groundsfor Sculpture.org](mailto:press@groundsfor Sculpture.org)