



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

Final Weeks to See Two Concurrent Exhibitions Comprising the Inaugural *Perspectives* Series

The Exhibitions *Local Voices: Memories, Stories and Portraits* and *Spiral Q: The Parade* Explore Individual and Communal Agency in the Art of Storytelling and Will Close on January 7, 2024.

Hamilton, NJ – December 8, 2023 – Two Artist Led, Community Driven exhibitions focused on storytelling from the individual and community perspectives are entering their final weeks and will close on January 7, 2024. The exhibitions, now on view in Grounds For Sculpture's Domestic Arts Building, were developed to highlight and deepen relationships in New Jersey, specifically with the Indian and Trenton communities.

Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits provides a multi-faceted look at the Indian community in New Jersey through first-person narratives, portraits and objects and was created in partnership with artist, teacher, and journalist Madhusmita Bora. The second exhibition, *Spiral Q: The Parade*, focuses 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 are on view through January 7, 2024, in Grounds For Sculpture's Domestic Arts Building.

"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—reflect on our world and respond to the 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, "Both Madhu Bora and Spiral Q have been amazing partners, and it's been a pleasure to present two distinct, yet connected, paths to storytelling: the individual narratives within one exhibition and the collective voice of a community in the other. I've been delighted to work on both shows with co-curator Quentin Williams, who brought his expertise as a curator, activist, and poet to the team."

Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits

April 23, 2023 – January 7, 2024

Grounds For Sculpture invited Madhusmita Bora—a folk and traditional artist, teacher, writer, and journalist, as well as an Assamese-American dancer and founder of Sattriya Dance Company—to gather oral histories presenting a range of uniquely personal stories from New Jersey's robust Indian diasporic community. The images, objects, and stories within the *Local Voices* exhibition are the result of her building relationships with individuals, the "storytellers," over the course of 10 months. The 15 selected individuals were then invited to share their stories, select an object of meaning, and craft their image with full autonomy, to create a powerful exhibition.

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 storytellers' medium, or process, of choice. Participants in this project reflect a broad scope of this community through the lenses of language, religion, ability, region of origin, caste, education, immigration, and sexual orientation.

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

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 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 was a three-week residency with Artworks Trenton, which led to a public parade on July 29th at Grounds For Sculpture.

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 led a residency in July 2023 at Artworks Trenton's visual arts center in downtown Trenton along with workshops at local community events throughout Trenton. Community members and organizations were invited to create puppets and banners for a procession at Grounds For Sculpture. The procession, which was held on July 29th at Grounds For Sculpture, had over 300 attendees, successfully engaging the local community.

"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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Hours and Ticketing

Both *Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits* and *Spiral Q: The Parade* are on view through January 7, 2024 with general admission. Advance timed ticket reservations are highly recommended to ensure entry. Reservations can be made online at [groundsforsculpture.org](https://www.groundsforsculpture.org).

Also on view now at Grounds For Sculpture:

Night Forms, an after-hours, multi-sensory light and sound experience that uses projection mapping to engage with the Ground For Sculpture art and horticulture collections. Open now through April 7, 2024.

Follow Grounds For Sculpture on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groundsfor Sculpture) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/groundsfor Sculpture), using the hashtag #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 [groundsforsculpture.org](https://www.groundsforsculpture.org).

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