



Helen Lessick

<https://HelenLessick.net>

C.V.

Los Angeles USA

SELECT COLLECTIONS

Artothèque d'Annecy, Annecy, France
Bonnie Bronson Foundation, Portland, OR
The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, CA
Cities of Inglewood and Los Angeles, CA; Portland, OR; Seattle, WA
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Nevada Museum of Art, Center for Art + Environment, Reno, NV
New York Public Library, New York, NY
Oregon Health Science Center, Portland, OR
Ruth and Marvin Sackner Archive of Concrete and Visual Poetry, Miami Beach, FL
Searchlight Financial, Beverly Hills, CA
Swedish Medical Foundation, Seattle, WA
State of Washington Public Art Collection

SELECT TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART

2024: 'The Spiral Carnival,' Playa Summer Lake, Lake County, Oregon
2022: 'Theatre of the Roots,' performed sculpture, Bilpin International Grounds for Creative Initiatives, Australia
2022: 'Gathering Clouds,' participatory installation for Getty 25, LA Phil/Beckmen YOLA Center, Inglewood, CA
2018: 'The Arbor Animé,' Installation in trees along a half mile of Academy Street, Town of Cary, NC
2017: 'The Arbor Ballet,' Campus Arboretum, Central Oregon Community College, Bend, OR
2015: 'Quercus (The Invisible Spectrum),' Oak Forest, Descanso Garden, La Cañada Flintridge, CA
2013: 'Garden Milagros,' St. Anthony Community Park and KDI, East Coachella, CA
2006: Soil Sample LA, site-specific exhibition checklist to public soils, Los Angeles Cultural Affairs, CA
2005: 'The Trees: A Play in Three Acts by the Plant Community,' Santa Monica Arts Commission, CA
2003: 'Decimal•Points,' Seattle Public Library, Seattle Arts Commission, WA
2002: 'River/Water/Shed,' project in the banks for the Los Angeles River, Arroyo Arts, Los Angeles, CA
2001: 'House of Salt/Water,' United Arts Council, Naples, FL
2000: 'The Office of the Artist in Residence,' Regional Arts + Culture Council, Portland, OR
2000: 'On the Fringe of Philadelphia,' Philadelphia Fringe Festival, Philadelphia, PA
1999: 'Rapunzel,' site-specific installation, Prince Albert Memorial, Belfast, North Ireland, United Kingdom
1998: Hidden Treasures of Greater Tacoma, Pierce Transit in partnership with Tacoma Arts Commission, WA
1997: 'The American Century,' Sand Point Naval Air Station Hangar #2, Seattle Arts Commission, WA
1996: Worm World, artist book project, *The Stranger*, Seattle, WA
1995: Squirrel World, artists book project, KIDSTAR 1250 Magazine, Seattle, WA
1994: 'HOMEWORK,' Tacoma Arts Commission & Municipal Housing Authority, Tacoma, WA
1993: 'Home: House of Memory,' site-specific artist-initiated project, New Langston Arts, Seattle, WA
1993: Metro Hair Survey, Metro Art Committee, Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle
1993: 'Le Paysage Vivant,' Lycée Agricole du Valentin, Valence, France.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019: 'The Burning Forest | Pyrolysis,' Stanline Gallery, Seattle, WA. Catalog
2017: 'Canopy: On Helen Lessick's Trees,' Jeffrey Thomas Fine Art, Portland, OR. Travelling. Catalog
2013: 'Works on Paper,' American Institute of Architects Los Angeles, CA

2009: 'Other Arrangements,' Barbara Davis Gallery, Houston, TX
2005: 'Nonet,' Pinckney Center for the Arts, Bend, OR
2004: 'The Human Condition,' Gallery 727, Los Angeles, CA
2002: 'Resident Houses,' Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA
1999: Esther Claypool Gallery, Seattle, WA
1996: 'The Invisible World,' Gallery 114, Portland, OR
1995: 'The Crowning Glory of Tacoma,' Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA
1992: Butters Gallery, Portland, OR. Catalog
1990: 'Art = Anthropology,' Butters Gallery, Portland, OR
1989: 'Pastel Drawings,' Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV
1988: 'Structural Expressionism,' Northwest Artists Workshop, Portland, OR
1985: 'Oasis,' Fine Arts Gallery, Alverno College, Milwaukee, WI

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023: 'Treats and Sweets' Edward Cella Art and Architecture / Himalaya Club, Inglewood, CA
2022: '46: Artists Books from the Franklin Furnace Archive 1976-2022,' Pratt Institute Library, Brooklyn, NY
2019: 'Film and Video Poetry Society: 2019 Exhibition and Screenings,' Los Angeles and New York City
2019: 'Beyond the Pale,' Cypress College Art Gallery, Cypress, CA. Curated by Janet Owen Driggs
2016: 'Broadcast,' Keystone Gallery, Los Angeles, CA. Curated by Kim Abeles & Ken Marchionno
2015: 'Oasis,' Sturt Haaga Gallery, Descanso Botanical Gardens, La Cañada Flintridge, CA
2014: 'CultureLab: Disguise,' Pico Union Project, Los Angeles, CA
2013: 'Ways of Water,' Thoreau Center for Sustainability, San Francisco, CA
2012: 'Turn Here: Artists Promote Environmental Awareness,' Gershman Galleries, Philadelphia PA
2011: 'Bronson Foundation 20th Anniversary Show,' Lewis + Clark College, Portland, OR. Catalog
2010: '01SJ' Public exhibit throughout city, organized by ZeroOne, San José, CA
2008: 'Cucamonga Peak/Art Avalanche,' Chaffey College, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
2004: 'Olympic Project' exhibition on the route of the Olympic torch, I. Petropolis, curator Athens, Greece
2003: '[ISC@GFS](#),' Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ
2002: Faire Internationale d'Arte Contemporaine (FIAC XXIX: Edition) Porte de Versailles, Paris France. Catalog
2000: 'Counter Canvas,' Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, Portland, OR.
2000: 'The 2000 Behnke Fellowship Awards,' Bank of America Gallery, Seattle, WA. Catalog
1999: 'Game Show,' Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA.
1999: 'Horsehead International,' Curated by Matthew Lennon, Belfast, North Ireland, UK
1998: 'The View from Here: The Centennial of Mt. Rainier National Park,' Seafirst Gallery, Seattle, WA. Catalog
1997: 'The Garden Show,' Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, Portland, OR
1996: 'Utopian Visions,' Port Angeles Fine Art Center, Port Angeles, WA
1994: 'Maquettes,' Lookout Urban Space, New York, NY. Travelling internationally. Catalog
1994: 'Animal Farm,' James Corcoran Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
1993: 'Books as Objects,' Comus Gallery, Portland, OR. Travelling nationally
1993: Group show, Wurrtembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart, Germany
1991: 'The Oregon Biennial,' Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR. Catalog

PERMANENT PUBLIC ART

2015: 'Soil Sample Morgan Hill,' Municipal Community Garden, City of Morgan Hill, CA
2012: 'Soil Sample: Kenya,' artist-initiated project with local sign artisans and Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI), project funded through Art Matters, Inc and USArtists, Nairobi, Kenya
2011: 'Hollywood Charms,' Assistance League of Southern California, Hollywood, CA
2010: 'The Poetics of Air', Dept. of Engineering Air Treatment Facility #1, City of Los Angeles, CA
2006: ArtCans, Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, Dept. of Neighborhoods, Los Angeles, CA
2001: 'Vestige,' Chemistry Building, Reed College, Portland, OR
1999: 'Collect 'Ems,' Safeco Field. Stadium Public Facilities District, Seattle, WA
1998: 'The Uses of Enchantment,' University of Washington, Seattle, WA
1987: 'House for Summer,' Hoyt Arboretum, Portland OR. Artist-initiated living tree sculpture

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

2024: Art and Science Residency, Playa Summer Lake, Lake County, OR
2022: Artist's Residency, Bilpin International Ground for Creative Investigation, Bilpin, New South Wales, Australia
2014: Artist in Residence, Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, Scottsdale, AZ
2014: Writer in Residence, Annenberg Community Beach House, City of Santa Monica, CA
2011 -12: Research Artist Residency, Kounkuey Design Initiative: Kibera project site, Nairobi, Kenya
2011: Artist in Residence: Migratory Trees project, Pilgrim School, Los Angeles, CA
2005: Artist in Residence District 2, Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles, CA
2003: Lithographic Residency, Atelier Bordas, Paris, France
2000: Residency Project, Regional Arts & Culture Council, Portland, OR
1999: Artist in Residence, Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA
1998: Artist Residency Fellowship, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
1993: Artist Residency Fellowship, ART3, Valence, France
1987: Artist's Residency, Sculpture Space, Utica, NY
1985: Sculptor's Residency, Athena Foundation, New York, NY

SELECT GRANTS & AWARDS

2025: Support Grant for Experiments in Public Art: artists' workshops, Public Art Fund, City of Inglewood, CA
2018: Support Grant, American Academy of Arts and Culture, New York, NY
2014: Culture Lab Collaborations, Silverlake Independent Jewish Community Center, Los Angeles
2011: International Research Project Grant, Art Matters, Inc., New York, NY
2010: AbsoluteZERO project grant, San Jose, CA
2005: Project Grant, Gunk Foundation, Gardiner, NY
2000: Achievement Award, Bonnie Bronson Foundation, Portland, OR
1998: Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, New York, NY
1998: First Prize, AdWheel Awards, New York, NY. Award for Excellence in Communications in public transportation for Hidden Treasures of Greater Tacoma, with Pierce Transit Marketing, Tacoma, WA
1997: Seattle Artists Program award, Seattle Arts Commission, WA
1996: Artist's Project Grant, National Endowment for the Arts & Warhol Foundation, USA
1990 & 1985: Art Matters, Inc. project grants, New York, NY

SELECT PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

2025: 'Experiments in Public Art: Inglewood,' public art workshop series, Creative House Gallery, Inglewood, CA
2024: 'Public Art and Science,' lecture for ArtX, Coconino Center for the Arts, Flagstaff, AZ
2021: Spring Public Art lecture series, United Arts Council of Collier County, Naples, FL
Oct. 2017: Moderator and Panelist, 'Art and Forest Resources,' Pinckey Center for the Arts, Bend, OR
April 2016: Presenter, 'Creative Catalysts,' Loz Feliz Charter School for the Arts, Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 2015: Presenter, 'Jinan Exhibition and Conference: International Public Art: Urban Art and Public Ecology,' Shandong University School of Art and Design, Jinan, China
July, 2015: Panelist, 'Public Art in a Climate of Change,' International Awards in Public Art, co-organized by University of Auckland, Shanghai University and Shandong University, Auckland, New Zealand
June, 2014: Co-discussant, 'The Future of Public Art,' Public Art Network, Nashville, TN
Jan. 2014: 'Public Art and Placemaking,' panel, Annenberg Beach House, Santa Monica, CA
April 2013: 'Visual Resourcefulness and the Public Art Challenge,' VRA conference, Providence, RI
Sept. 2011: 'Creative Processing,' Lewis + Clark College, Portland, OR
June 2011: 'Plan A: Artist-Initiated Projects,' Americans for the Arts Public Art Network, San Diego, CA
March 2009: Panelist, 'Systems of Sustainability' Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston, TX
Oct. 2008: Moderator, 'Context: Site and Sculpture,' Sculpture in Public: Part 2, ISC, Grand Rapids, MI
April 2008: 'Temporary Sculpture: Artists Talk,' Chaffey College, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
Feb. 2007: 'Professional Practices,' Florida Gulf Coast University, Ft. Myers, FL
June 2005: 'Temporary Projects, Permanent Effect,' panelist, Public Art Network, Austin, TX

SELECT PANELS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES and COMMUNITY SERVICE

2025: Panelist, Public Art Roster, Maryland State Arts Council, MD
2025: Presenter, Public Art and Community, El Sistema US West Coast Regional Conference, Inglewood, CA
2024, 2025: Artists' Projects Grant Panel, City of West Hollywood, CA
2023: Juror, Public Art Commission, Venice Community Housing, Santa Monica, CA
2018- 2019: Juror, Public Art Commissions for Scissortail Park & Convention Center, Oklahoma City, OK
2017: Panelist, Arts Organization Operational Grants, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, CA
2013: Co-juror, 'Year in Review,' Florida Public Art Coalition, FL
2010: Co-juror, 'Year in Review,' Public Art Network, Americans for the Arts, Baltimore, MD
2008: Juror, 'Zone 5 in the City,' site-related environmental art projects, Arroyo Arts, Los Angeles, CA
2007: Juror, Commission for Downtown Civic Space, Public Art Program, City of Phoenix, AZ
2005: Juror, Promenade Public Art commission, Santa Monica Arts Commission, Santa Monica, CA
2004 - 2007: Silver Lake Parks and Open Space Committee, Los Angeles, CA
2003: Juror, Main Street Promenade Public Art Commission, City of Ventura, CA
1995 - 2002: Art Committee, Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA
1991 - 2002: Advisory Board, Socrates Sculpture Park, New York, NY

RECENT RELATED PROJECTS

Civic Arts Catalyst 1989- current
Public art plans, policies, program development and project and collection management for clients including:
Cities of Austin, TX; Carlsbad, CA; Dublin, OH; Inglewood, CA; Norfolk, VA; Oklahoma City, OK; Portland, OR; San Diego, CA; Seattle, WA; Tacoma, WA; Ventura and West Hollywood, CA; Institutions including Americans for the Arts; Forecast Public Art; Socrates Sculpture Park; United Indians of All Tribes; University of Southern California; Venice (CA) Community Housing and Rexford Industrial Realty (LA) and States of Oregon and Washington.

STJr: In Service of Art 2026
Monograph on painter and USMC veteran Sidney Tuggerson Jr, exploring a self-taught artist's 45 years of creativity, on the completion of his first major public art commission. Softcover, 64 pages.

Growing Artists' Public Projects 2025
Proceedings of the Inaugural Conference of World Public Art, United Nations. Published by the University of Shanghai. Paper on the impact of having artists lead public art projects, programs and policies.

Experiments in Public Art: Inglewood 2025
Author, publisher and research of a book documenting public art history in Inglewood, California. Starting in 1939 with a bronze monument created by community subscription through the Growing Artists Projects, artists led by working outside the studio. Original texts and photos with essays by four cultural leaders document what happens when a painter, poet, vocalist and public art catalyst walk into a city hall. Softcover, 150 pages.

Painting is A Verb 2025
Commissioned essay for solo exhibition Making A Clear Mark, by painter and art faculty founder Morgan T. Paine Wasmer Art Gallery, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL

CULTURAL MASTERPLANS and PUBLIC ART PLANS

City of Dublin Public Art Masterplan, Dublin Arts Council, Dublin, OH, 2019; Five-year update in 2024
City of Inglewood Senior Center Public Art Plan, Inglewood, CA, 2016 - 2018
Houston Arts Alliance Civic Art + Design Annual Plan, Houston, TX, 2009
Rexford Berry Way Public Art Plan, Brea, CA 2025
Waterfront Park Master Plan, public art within EDAAW master plan, City of Portland, OR. 2002

EDUCATION

Masters of Fine Art in Studio Art, University of California Irvine
Bachelor of Art in Art, Reed College, Portland, OR