### **Artist Statement**

I'm particularly drawn to overlooked or underutilized environments, from private imaginary worlds within brick walls, to back alleys, to public sprawling open spaces. It is in these environments that I tease out small fragments of narrative by augmenting or amplifying the raw materials of a given place. I ask the viewer to engage both with what was always there as well as what might be.

With all of my work I set out to engage the public and foster a sense of community. The works are playful, accessible—and very often unexpected. By using disparate elements (including everything from mist to swings to showers to wind-powered elements) in surprising and interactive ways, my work aims to disarm and delight, which encourages engagement with the work and among viewers themselves.

In addition, I approach public art opportunities with the notion of making the site more congenial and communal for those who use it. The site always influences the structure and the materials such that the site itself becomes an element of the work.

## Planning & Collaboration Experience

My current and previous projects that include permanent, temporary, and portable works (\$30-815K) are all durable, safe, and low maintenance. They always address the practical issues essential to the successful production and installation of public art: input from the community and stakeholders; coordination with project partners; strict budgets and timelines; permits and insurance; and synchronization with project managers, architects and engineers.

The variety of sites and stakeholders I have worked with speaks to experience in general, while examples of in-depth work with multi-disciplinary teams include:

Zoo Miami (10,000 sq. ft. new Children's' Play Area with a major interactive water feature)

• 12-person stakeholder group including representatives from: Zoo Miami, County Parks Department, and Zoo architects (URS)

Myrtle Avenue Plaza (new Brooklyn Pedestrian plaza)

• 22-person stakeholder group including representatives from: Department of Transportation, Department of Design & Construction, Department of Cultural Affairs, Plaza Architects (AECOM), and a local community group (MARP)

New Austin Municipal Court & Police Station

• Collaboration with design/build team (Wiginton Hooker Jeffry Architects) and representatives from the Municipal Court and police department

New Mexico School for the Blind & Visually Impaired

• Designed for universal access and children with special needs in collaboration with School's architect, disibility design expert, playground designer, and administration

New El Paso civic plaza with water feature

• Starting in May 2013, member of the plaza design team including architectects, landscape architectects, and representative from city government

Seattle North Delridge Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Facility

• Starting in fall 2013, member of the CSO retrofit design team including architectects, landscape architectects, and representative from the Department of Public Works

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### **PUBLIC ART**

2015 Cypress Landing, Zoo Miami, Commission, Miami, FL, \$815K

2015 Bewitched, Municipal Court & Police Station, Commission, Austin, Texas, \$225K

2014 Formosa, Myrtle Avenue Plaza, Percent for the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, \$126K

2014 Pepper & Tar, Downtown Lexington Public Art Initiative, Commission, Lexington, KY, \$135K

2014 Waterloo Falls, Commission, Cleveland, Ohio, \$135K

2013 Float, Happy Valley Byway, Commission North Carolina Arts Council, Lenoir, NC, 2010, \$55K

2013 Nautical Swing, Hunters Point Shipyard, Commission, San Francisco, CA, \$135K

2012 The Huddle, New Mexico School for the Blind & Visually Impaired, Commission, Albuquerque, NM, \$77K

2010 Woozy Blossom (Platabus nebulosus), Katonah Art Museum, Katonah, NY (a project of Creative Capital)

2009 Open Channel Flow, Sabine Street Water Pump Station, Commission, Houston, Texas, \$150K

2006 Awash, Collect Pond Park, Downtown Manhattan, NYC Department of Parks, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council

2006 Babble. Pummel & Pride, Evergreen House at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

2005 Whether you love me or not, Wave Hill, The Bronx, NY

2004 60 Weak Knees, Commission, Arthouse, Austin, TX, \$28K

2004 Little white pearls in a puddle, Summer Palace Garden, Düsseldorf, Germany

2003 Foggy Day, Cortland Alley, New York City, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, a project of Creative Capital, NYC

2002 Feed for a fine line, Church Street, Downtown New York City, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council

2002 Six permanent installations, Commission, Long Island Children's Museum, Garden City, NY, \$30K

1999 Failing to seek shelter, they..., Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam

1997 Longer Island, Projects 97, Islip Art Museum, Long Island, NY

1995 Steps, Biography Memorials at Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx Council on the Arts

### SELECTED HONORS, AWARDS & GRANTS

Year in Review—Best Public Art in 2010, Public Art Network, Americans for the Arts

Foundation for Contemporary Art, 2006

Year in Review—Best Public Art in 2006, Public Art Network, Americans for the Arts

Grants for Art in Public Places, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, 2006

New York Foundation for the Art Artists' Fellowship in Sculpture, 2005

Year in Review—Best Public Art in 2003, Public Art Network, Americans for the Arts

Fund for Creative Communities, 2001

Creative Capital Foundation, 1999-2000

The Greenwall Foundation, 2000

Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, 2000

Artslink, a program of CEC International Partners, 1997-8

Rome Prize Fellowship in Visual Arts, American Academy in Rome, 1991-1992

National Endowment for the Arts, Visual Arts Fellowship, 1989, 1987

Jerome Foundation Film/Video Grant, 1989

Art Matters Grant, 1988

New York Foundation for the Arts Artist's Fellowship, 1988

WGBH/WNET "New Television" Finish Funds Grant, 1987, 1985

New York State Council on the Arts, TV/Media Production Grant, 1986, 1984, 1982

National Endowment for the Arts, Media Arts Production Grant, 1987

Creative Artists Public Service (CAPS) Fellowship, 1984

### **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS & SCREENINGS**

2013 Anticipator, outdoor interactive installation, Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme, CT

2012 Woozy Blossom (Platabus nebulosus), Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, FL

2010 Woozy Blossom (Platabus nebulosus), Katonah Art Museum, Katonah, NY

2005 Almost. Again. Almost. One more time. Maiden Lane Exhibition Space, NYC

1998 Basements, Hans Knoll Gallery, Budapest, Hungary

Continuously harder forever, U.F.F. Gallery, Budapest, Hungary

1996 Stories contrary to the way they appear, Revolution, Detroit, MI

1995 Reciprocal Discovery, Revolution, Detroit, MI

1991 The Activity of Watching Television, Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, Grand Rapids, MI

1990 From Receiver to Remote Control: The TV Set, The New Museum of Contemporary Art

1988 Split Britches, New Television Series, PBS

1987 Bees & Thoroughbreds, New Television Series, PBS

1985 Everglades City, The Kitchen Center at Squat Theater, NYC; Hallwalls, Buffalo, NY; UC Video, Minneapolis, MN

1982 October New York Post, Printed Matter, NYC

Or run to ground zero, "Messages to the Public", Spectacolor Board, Public Art Fund, NYC

1981 Difficulty Swallowing, Printed Matter, NYC

1980 Last War III, Mudd Club, NYC; Time Square Show, NYC

Times Square Show, WNEW-TV

Divided Line, Center Gallery, Bucknell University

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS & SCREENINGS "Times Square Show Revisited", Hunter College Art Gallery, NYC 2012 "The Worldly House", dOCUMENTA (13), Kassel, Germany "Forecast", Architecture Center Houston and AIA Houston, Houston, TX "Chalk the Block Festival", San Jacinto Plaza, El Paso, TX Grange Gardens Sculpture Commission Proposals, Galerie8, London, England 2011 "Summer Shorts", Electric Arts Intermix, NYC 2010 2009 "Looking at Music: Side 2", Museum of Modern Art, NYC "Civic Duty: Building Art, Building Houston", 125 Gallery, Houston Arts Alliance, Houston, TX 2008 "Art in the Public Sphere: Singular Works, Plural Possibilities", University Gallery, U of Massachusetts 2007 "For Being Open: A Celebration of 30 Years", Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, Grand Rapids, MI "The Downtown Show: The New York Art Scene 1974-1984, Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburg 2005 "Meteorologic Phenomena", Wave Hill, NYC "The Duce: (Nearly 100 Years of Times Square, Ocularis, NYC 2004 "Summer Repertory: Everglades City", MOMA, NYC 2003 "The Hagie C", Kunst Kanaal, Amsterdam 2001 "Video Time", Museum of Modern Art, NYC 2000 "Holiday", Revolution Gallery, Detroit "Space", Witte de With, Rotterdam 1999 "Three Suitcases / Tres Maletas", Art & Idea, Mexico City "House Show", USM, Hamburg, Germany 1998 "No Wave Cinema, 1978-87", Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC; Fiction, Inc., Tokyo 1996 "Cultural Economics", Drawing Center, NYC 1995 "Boxes", The Sculpture Center at Roosevelt Island "The Future of the Book, the Book of the Future", Florida State U. Gallery 1994 "Good and Plenty", Art in General, NYC 1993 "Aides Project", Museum of Modern Art, NYC "Giftland", Printed Matter "Artists' Books", Smithsonian Institute "Learn to Read Art: Artists' Books", Art Gallery of Hamilton, Canada 1990 "New Narratives", Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC "New Narratives", International Center for Photography, NYC 1989 "21 Years of Independents", Museum of Modern Art, NYC; Rotterdamse Kunst Stichting; American Film Institute 1988 Video Festival; "II Bienal De Video", Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellin 1987 "Selections from the Video Study Center", Museum of Modern Art, NYC "Video Discourse: Mediated Narratives", La Jolla Museum, California "Resolution: A Critique of Video Art", Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions 1986 "MASS", Group Material, The New Museum of Contemporary Art, NYC "TV's Impact on Contemporary Art", Queens Museum "Mediated Narratives", Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston 1984 I Saw It On TV, Subway Posters, Group Material "What Are You Waiting for?" 911, Seattle, WA "The Second Link", Long Beach Museum of Art, CA, Institute of Contemporary Art, London "1983 Biennial", Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC 1983 "The Second Link", Museum of Modern Art, NYC; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; A Space, Toronto "1984", Ronald Feldman Gallery 1982 "New Imagery", Museum of Modern Art, NYC "New Work, New York", Long Beach Museum of Art "Return/Jump", The Kitchen Center "A.More Store", Collaborative Projects, Barbara Gladstone Gallery, NYC "Fashion Moda Store", Documenta, Kasel, Germany "Ola De Calor", Museum del Bario 1981 "Kitchen Presents", Museum of Modern Art, Jerusalem "Colab Two Suitcase Show", And/Or, Seattle "Page as Alternative Space", Franklin Furnance "The Teu-Gum & the 16 Italians Show", Curator: John M. Armleder, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva "The Times Square Show", Collaborative Projects 1980 "Animals Living in the City", ABC No Rio, NYC "Real Estate Show", Collaborative Projects

### COLLECTIONS

Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC; Museum of Modern Art. NYC; Witte de With, Rotterdam; Florida State University; La Jolla Museum, CA; Institute of Contemporary Art, London; Long Beach Museum of Art, CA; Moderna Musset, Stockholm; Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum, Einhoven; New York University Library

### **EDUCATION**

Joe Meppelink & Andrew Vrana Co-founders & Principals Metalab 2003 Kane Street Houston, TX 77007 713.426.3640 joe@metalabstudio.com andrew@metalabstudio.com

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## Open Channel Flow

Steel, water, light beacons, hand pump
2009
\$150K
60' x 33' x 45'
Houston Art Alliance / City of Houston
Sabine Water Pump Station and Buffalo Bayou Park,
Houston, TX



Partly located inside the Houston Sabine Water Pump Station fence and partly outside the fence in Buffalo Bayou Park (and a few hundred feet from the public skateboard park) *Open Channel Flow* mimics in style and color much, much smaller structures that dot the Pump Station landscape. By using the stainless steel hand-pump one can experience a refreshing "shower" as water rains down from the showerhead 25 feet above. Simultaneously, and as a result of pumping water through the pipes, yellow and blue beacons on top of the 60-foot structure flash, signaling people as far away as downtown that another person has doused themselves with a refreshing, albeit very brief, shower.

"Year in Review"—Best Public Art in 2010, Public Art Network, Americans for the Arts

# 3-4 The Huddle Stainless steel, powder-coated aluminum 2012 \$77K 10' x 12' x 22' New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired



Integrated with the site and the architecture, *The Huddle* addresses the School's need for a shaded area outside the confines of the school building for parents, children (2/1/2-6 years old), and staff to meet, especially at the beginning and end of the school day. Supporting the notion of universal access and meeting the needs of the wheelchair-bound children, the gently swaying bench is designed for both wheelchairs and traditional seating. Those gathering are protected from the wind by the foliage and the swing while the wind turns the whirligig that creates an appealing chiming sound as some of the wires strike the top of the canopy.

5-6

Woozy Blossom (Platanus nebulosus)

Steel, water, copper, pump

2010

\$40K

Dimensions variable (16' x 9' x 9')

Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY (2010)

Vero Beach Museum, Vero Beach, FL (2011)

"Forecast", Houston AIA Center, Houston, TX (2012)

"Chalk the Block", San Jacinto Plaza, El Paso, TX (2012)



This sixteen-foot high perforated steel tree produces a continuous fog, inviting visitors to be engulfed in its midst and reveal in its cool, moist air. The fog is in a constant state of flux, sensitive to the slightest changes in wind, temperature, and humidity. Simultaneously eerie, unexpected, and playful, *Woozy Blossom* transforms its site into an ever-changing, otherworldly environment.

This temporary portable fountain is designed as a kit-of-parts. It only requires a wrench, a rope, a standard electric receptacle and a water hose connection to be installed. The work is self-supporting (flat steel root-shaped base) and can be installed on any surface.

# 7-8 Formosa Corten steel, glass, wood 2011 (commissioned) 2014 (completion) \$126K 9' x 12' x 12' New York City Dept of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art Commissioned for the new Myrtle Avenue Plaza



Current Status: Design and 100% CDs approved.

The roof is a hybrid of a 19<sup>th</sup> century vault-light manhole cover and a traditional rose window. The three round columns each have two seats mounted like a rollercoaster car such that the seats can be moved to face in any direction. Pale colored spots of light dance across the pavement on sunny days and at night (lighted by a spotlight from above). When it rains water pours through a 12" hole in the center of the roof (draining through the permeable concrete) creating a diminutive passive water feature in the center of the work.

# 9-10 Cypress Landing Steel, wood, water, mist, sand, rubber 2011 (commissioned) 2015 (completion) \$815K 32' x 100' x 100' Miami-Dade County Dept of Cultural Affairs Commissioned for the design and artwork for the new Zoo Miami Children's Play Area



Current Status: Design and 100% CDs approved.

The commission includes the entire 10,000 sq. ft children's play area, including the overall design and layout. The principal feature is three 35' tall powder-coated perforated stainless steel misting cypress trees (and knees) with a dozen interactive water features. The design also includes playground equipment, seating areas, shade structures, cabanas, lighting, landscaping.