

ARTIST STATEMENT: Ellen Sollod

Making our shared public spaces dynamic and engaging excites me. For nearly 20 years, I have practiced the art of making public places by participating on design teams and integrating art in transportation, streetscapes, parks, plazas, educational facilities, hospitals and infrastructure. I have worked as an artist-planner on area-wide urban design plans, waterfront framework plans, streetscapes and design guidelines, and large-scale infrastructure projects including a wastewater treatment system. This work has been informed by my experience as an artist and by a Masters degree in urban studies. This enables me to respond creatively to different conditions, envisioning art opportunities in a broad range of media. It has also allowed me to contribute constructively, “drawing outside the box” as a team member, dealing with issues beyond artwork or art integration, to address issues of community livability and vitality. I am especially interested in thinking about the urban context and approaching projects in a comprehensive way to make places memorable—with art as an integral part of the user experience—a touchstone, an identifier, vibrant and engaging.

In working collaboratively with other design professionals, I seek to understand the community: how it developed; where it is today; and its vision for the future. By asking questions about the experiences people wish to have rather than what they “want to see”, one can be informed by and responsive to a richer frame of ideas. My creative process includes an initial period of inquiry and discovery, getting to know the place, how it functions today and the vision and goals for how it will be in the future, interviewing key stakeholders and community members, internet and library research, and what I call, just walking around, listening and seeing intuitively.

As an artist on planning teams, I have participated and led a wide variety of public engagement processes, including design charettes, workshops, informal gatherings and the like. In addition, on occasion, I have undertaken innovative approaches to community involvement. Examples of such efforts include: working with a community on mapping experiences through structured or unstructured walks to document anomalies or other features that inherently define a place; involving the community in participating in an *instagram* or *hipstamatic* feed to a web-based project to promote sharing of information and ideas; using an empty storefront as an “information station” or a store window to install a temporary project. The goal is create an experience that encourages participants to “see” and “know” their community in a different way.

I have also developed art master plans for specific art projects. These plans include creating opportunities for other artists to execute work. They clearly define the goals, guiding principles, and objectives, describe history and context, and lay out a framework for response. At the same time, I leave plenty of room for artistic invention. They are useful tools for administrators, architects and landscape architects and provide background and insights for artists, by aiding them in “short-circuiting” the research process of complicated projects.

Because I have created site-specific work in a wide variety of media and for many contexts, I am able to envision a wide range of possible responses. Through being engaged in the conceptualization and planning phases of large-scale infrastructure projects, I have created art plans that consider the whole and the individual parts.

I am skilled with Microsoft Word, Excel, Adobe Creative Suites (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator) and Audacity (sound design software). As a photographer, I use a Canon DSLR as well as pinhole photography as means of capturing place.

I currently serve as the artist member of the Seattle Design Commission. In this capacity, I participate on the multidisciplinary professional board that advises City Council and the Mayor on capital improvement projects, urban form, street vacations and other matters relating to the built environment. This experience affords me the opportunity to think expansively about issues and work collaboratively with other design professionals.

I would be delighted to bring this background and expertise to the City of Saint Paul.

Public Art Projects

- In progress "Energy Bands", Puget Sound Energy, Ardmore Substation, Redmond, WA
- In progress "Cloud" 12th Avenue Park, Seattle, WA
- In progress "Lost in Thought", Mercer Corridor, Office of Arts and Culture, Seattle, WA
- 2012 "Origami Tessellation," Mercer Corridor, Office of Arts and Culture, Seattle, WA,
- 2012 "Bay Watching", Pier 62/63, Office of Arts and Culture, Seattle, WA
- 2011 "Collection and Transformation" & "It's All About the Water", Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Plant, Environmental Education Center, 4 Culture, King County, WA,
- 2011 "Portrait of Shoreline", Shoreline, WA
- 2010 "Precious Water", collaboration with C. Law, Seattle, WA
- 2009 "The Plaza at Bay and Holly," Bellingham, WA,
- 2009 "An Evocation," Burien Town Square Park, Burien, WA
- 2006 "American Dream", Bellevue Community College, Bellevue, WA
- 2004-2005 "Breathing Lessons" and "Solar Chamber," South Seattle Community College, WSAC,
- 2002-2004 "Vernacular Generation" and "Cabinet of Invention and Obsolescence," Valley Transportation Authority, Santa Clara Valley, CA,
- 2002-2003 Untitled, (collaboration with Nina Zingale) Mann Elementary School, Lake Washington School District
- 1999-2004 "From the Laws of Man to the Laws of Nature," Olympia Gateway Corridor, Olympia, WA,
- 1998-2002 "Bella Figura" and "The Throne Room," Harborview Medical Center, KCAC, Seattle, WA
- 1998-2001 "Time Piece" and "The River," Renton Transit Center, KCAC, Renton, WA
- 1998-2000 "Shadow Caster," Sumner Commuter Rail, Sound Transit, Sumner, WA,
- 1998-1999 "Seven," Swedish Medical Center Patient Care Tower, Seattle, WA
- 1998 "The Digs," (unrealized) Eastbank Riverfront Park, RACC, Portland, OR
- 1997-2000 "In The Grove," East Hill Park Expansion, Kent Arts Commission, Kent, WA
- 1995 "Of Science and Faith," Entryway artwork, Swedish Medical Center, Seattle, WA
- 1995-98 "Untitled," Pier Park, City of Portland, OR
- 1993-94 Downtown Street Scape, City of Mercer Island, WA
- 1993 "The Walking Fish Trail," Eastlake Community Council, Seattle, WA

Conceptual Designs/Master Plans

- 2010 Port Angeles Waterfront Art Plan
- 2009 Diridon Station Area Master Plan, San Jose, CA
- 2008 Aurora Avenue Art Plan, Shoreline, WA
- 2006-2007 Bellingham, WA Arts District Master Plan & Streetscape Design
- 2006 Burien Town Square Open Space Master Plan, Burien, WA
- 2003-2004 Brightwater Waste Water Treatment Plant Art Master Plan, King County, WA
- 2000 Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Light Rail Conceptual Design, CA
- 1999-2002 Brightwater Waste Water Treatment Plant Siting Project, King County, WA
- 1998 SeaTac Airport Design Guidelines, Seattle, WA
- 1997-98 North Shorewood Park Concept Design, South Center, WA
- 1997 Holly Park Art Master Plan, Seattle Arts Commission, Seattle, WA
- 1997 Holly Park Plaza Concept Design, Seattle Arts Commission, Seattle, WA
- 1997 SeaTac Airport Landscape Master Plan, Seattle, WA
- 1997 Kent Gateway Design Concept, Kent, WA
- 1996-97 Sand Point-Magnuson Park Design Guidelines, Art Plan, City of Seattle, WA
- 1995-96 Broadway Viaduct Art Plan and Prospectus, Mayor's Office on Art, Culture and Film, Denver, CO
- 1995 Design Vision and Standards, Design Team Member, Shelton, WA

1995-96 Washington State Convention and Trade Center Design Team, Seattle, WA
 1995-96 Downtown Streetscape Design Team, City of Redmond, WA
 1994 Bellevue Pedestrian Corridor, Design Team Member
 1994 Seattle Inter-Modal Terminal Project, Design Team Member
 1994 City of Sumner Commuter Rail Station and Downtown Park, Design Team Member

Fellowships / Awards

2008 Artist in Residence, Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA
 2005 Centrum Foundation Fellowship Residency
 2003 Jack Straw Foundation, Artist Support Program
 2003 Cultural Development Authority Special Projects Grant
 2001 Artist Trust, Aqua Grant

Solo and Invitational Exhibitions

2012 *Outside In/Inside Out: The Inner Life of Jack*, Jack Straw New Media Gallery, Seattle, WA
 2009 *Lake Washington Palimpsest*, Museum of Northwest Art, La Conner, WA
 2008 *The Book as Art*, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
 2007 *Conceptually Bound*, University of California at Chico
 2007 *channeling herbert: earthworks•artworks•public works*, Centennial Center Gallery, Kent, WA
 2007 *ArchiTEXTure: Redfining the Book*, Museum of Outdoor Art, Denver, CO
 2006 *American Dream*, in conjunction with BCC Reads, Bellevue Community College, Bellevue, WA
 2006 *Drawing into the New Year*, Columbia City Gallery, Seattle, WA
 2005 *Define: Book*, Art Books Press, Seattle, WA
PAPER/politics, Seattle Print Arts, Phinney Center Gallery, Seattle, WA
 2003 *Thinking in Public* (collaborative installation with Buster Simpson, Jack Mackie, Don Fels and Ellen Sollod), CDA Gallery, Seattle, WA
 2002 *Solace*, Robischon Gallery, Denver, CO
 2001 *New Work*, Eyre-Moore Gallery, Seattle, WA
Passion.Points, Mahlum Architects, curated by Elizabeth Leach, Seattle, WA

Professional Experience

1/93- Principal, Sollod Studio, Seattle, WA
 8/89- 10/92 Executive Director, Seattle Arts Commission, Seattle, WA
 2/87-8/89 Independent Consultant, Denver, CO
 6/81- 1/87 Executive Director, Colorado Council on the Arts and Humanities, Denver, CO
 10/78-6/81 The National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC
 6/80 -6/81 Assistant Director, Dance Program
 5/79-6/80 Program Administrator, Dance Program
 10/78-5/79 Policy and Planning Specialist
 12/75-10/78 Assistant Arts Coordinator, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Riverdale, MD.

Related Professional Activities

2012-present Seattle Design Commission, City of Seattle
 2009 Editorial Board, Forum, A quarterly journal of AIA Seattle,
 2006 Visiting Artist, Maryland Institute College of Art
 2002 Visiting Faculty, School of Art Program in Rome, University of Washington
 1997 National Register of Peer Professionals, General Services Administration
 1996 -2008 Editorial Resource Board, Arcade, The Journal of Architecture/Design in the NW
 1994 Adjunct Faculty, Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Washington

Selected Bibliography

2010 Art and Politics, Susan Platt
 2007 The Art of Placemaking, Ron Feldman, Merrill Press
 2003 Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "Tower of Smiths' triggers an intriguing look back,"
 Regina Hackett, 12/19/03
 2002 Denver Post, "Solace' in Art", Kyle MacMillan, 9/11/02
 2002 Westword, "Terrible Beauty", Susan Froyd, 9/12/02

s o l l o d s t u d i o

T. Ellen Sollod
724 15th Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98122

206.324-7644
tesollod@sollodstudio.com
www.sollodstudio.com

References for Ellen Sollod,
Sollod Studio LLC

Cath Brunner
Public Art Program Director
4 Culture
101 Prefontaine Pl S
Seattle, WA 98104
206-296-8680
cath.brunner@4culture.org
projects: Harborview Medical Center, Renton Transit Center
Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mark Hinshaw, Urban Designer
LMN
801 Second Ave, #501
Seattle WA 98104
206-682-3460
mhinshaw@lmnarchitects.com
Projects: Port Angeles Waterfront Art Framework Plan
Mercer Corridor

Kelly Pajek,
Public Art Project Manager
City of Seattle Office of Arts and Culture
P.O. Box 94748
Seattle, WA 98104
206-684-7311
kelly.pajek@seattle.gov
project: Mercer Corridor

SOLLOD WORK SAMPLE NARRATIVE

SOLLOD_1.JPG

Brightwater Waste Water Treatment Plant and Conveyance System

Sollod was involved in the Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Plant Project from 1999-2011, first as a member of the Siting Team, later as a collaborative member of the Art Master Plan Team (along with Buster Simpson and Jann Rosen-queralt), and ultimately as a lead artist working on the design team and on a specific artwork. The following two slides document some of that work.

Brightwater Art Concept Workbook

Description: The art concept workbook was created collaboratively with Jann Rosen-queralt and Buster Simpson. We coordinated our work with the architects, landscape architects, and engineers on the project. The workbook set the groundwork for the Art Master Plan and influenced the overall design team direction. It created the thematic approach to the overall site and a set of guiding principles, embraced by the entire team and client agency as a design starting point.

SOLLOD_2.JPG

Searching for Brightwater 2000

Description: This small book is a creative interpretation of the Siting Process that included extensive research into the history of the area, along with interviews of local residents and analysis of development trends. Some aspects of the book were collaborative (the master plan “community portraits” were created by the landscape architect, the architectural analysis by the team architect, the underwater photographs by the team oceanographer). I conceived the approach, made most of the photographs, wrote the text, designed the layout and did all prepress production.

SOLLOD_3.JPG

SOLLOD_4.JPG

Title: Port Angeles Waterfront Art Framework Plan

Year completed: 2011

Description: The Plan was developed in response to the City’s goals of transforming the waterfront from an uninviting environment to one that would attract residents and visitors to spend time in a leisurely manner. It was developed in concert with an extensive urban design project that included redesign of the streetscape, the creating of beaches and gathering places. These excerpts from the plan illustrate thinking about overall goals as well as mapping/diagram for art integration. I participated as a member of the design team from the development of the art plan through initial artist selection and integration of custom designs for integrated art in the construction documents.

SOLLOD_5.JPG

Illustration of the analysis process for developing a public art plan. This diagram was used in conversation with community groups to elicit feedback.

SOLLOD_6.JPG

Title: Harborview View Park II

I served as a member of the design team that developed the RFQ for this design/build project and was contracted by the County to also serve on the design team. I collaborated on the design of the plaza and the elevator building. I designed the plaza seating, (detail shown here), wind sculpture and all the railings and security screens. The site is a combination helipad, plaza, parking garage, located at Harborview Medical Center, Seattle.

Title: The Throne Room/Harborview View Park II-Plaza Seating Area (detail)

Completed: 2003

Materials: Waterjet cut and painted steel, wood, plant materials, milestone coated concrete.

Dimensions: Variable

Description: This plaza was completed as part of the overall design of the Helipad/Garage and serves as the primary outdoor space for the Medical Center. The seating design is integral to the planter wall using the high back “thrones”, plant materials and railing to screen the helipad and orient the view.

Client/Location: King County Public Art Commission/ Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA

Landscape Architect: Swift and Company

Budget: This was part of a larger project, which includes a large-scale sculpture in an adjacent location. Overall project budget is \$121,000

SOLLOD_7.JPG

Title: Olympia Gateway Corridor “From the Laws of Man to the Laws of Nature”

Completed: 2004

Project Description: I served as a member of the design team for this extensive public works project. Thematically and geographically, the work reflects the title. The corridor connects downtown Olympia, the location of the State Capitol and less urban parts of the city.

Client/Location: City of Olympia, WA, Olympia Gateway Corridor

Design Team: Tylin Engineers, H2L2 Architects, Bob Droll Landscape Architects

• **Olympia Yashiro Bridge Overlook (detail)**

Artwork Description: The bridge includes four granite, marble and river rock overlooks and a 780' x 2' rivulet that conducts rain water the length of the bridge. The designs of the mosaic progress from geometric shapes to more natural shapes as one moves east to west. The designs on the east respond to the Capitol dome and the order of the planets while those on the west abstractly represent a shell form and a wave.

Materials: granite, marble and river rock mosaic

Dimensions: approximately 450 square feet each

Budget: \$180,000 (included in the overall construction budget)

SOLLOD_8.JPG

Title: The Plaza at Bay and Holly-Sentinel and Archimedean Seats

Completed: 2009

Materials: stainless steel, dichroic glass, LED lighting, granite pavers

Dimensions: variable, sculpture is 22' tall.

Description: The plaza at Bay and Holly marks the entrance to Bellingham's Arts District. Ellen served on the design team to develop plans for the entire Arts District. She designed the plaza paving pattern and these sculptures. Overall plaza design created in collaboration with Nakano Associates. Prior to the design of the plaza as a demonstration project, Ellen worked with Nakano Associates as a member of the design team to develop an overall vision for the arts district followed by a streetscape plan.

Client/Location: City of Bellingham, Arts District.

Budget: \$150,000 sculptures. Plaza paving and in-ground lighting were funded by the construction budget.

SOLLOD_9.JPG

Title: Collection and Transformation

Completed: 2011

Materials: blown, laboratory, mirrored glass, stainless, found objects, custom lighting, steel

Dimensions: 6' h x 12'w x 2'd

Description: Created for the entrance to the Brightwater Environmental Education Center, the work references the scientific activities around treating wastewater and the beneficial microscopic organisms. This project was one of two created for the Environmental Education Center which is located on the grounds of the wastewater treatment plant. See images 1 and 2 for further description of Ellen's involvement in the project as a member of the design team.

Client/Location: 4 Culture, Brightwater Waste Water Treatment Plant, Woodinville, WA

Budget: \$200,000

SOLLOD_10.JPG

Title: Origami Tessellation 3²3.4.3

Completed: 2012 (landscape to be completed in 2013)

Materials: stainless steel, interior and exterior lighting, plant material

Dimensions: sculpture 28'h x 4' diameter. Landscaped median 15' x 60'

Description: Iconic sculpture marks the entry to Seattle's gateway Mercer Corridor. Based on mathematical, scientific and natural tessellations, this work marks arrival in the city from the freeway in a

neighborhood known for biomedical research. I worked with HBB (landscape architect) to design the berms and select plant material.

Ellen also served on the design team developing other streetscape amenities for the corridor, including in-ground lighting, mosaic inlays, utility covers, and benches.

Design team: HBB Landscape Architects, LMN Architects/Urban Designers

Client/Location: Seattle Office of Arts and Culture, Seattle, WA

Budget: \$220,000 plus construction budget allocation for footing, electrical wiring and in-ground fixtures.