

2023 Call for Artists/Art Under the Elevated

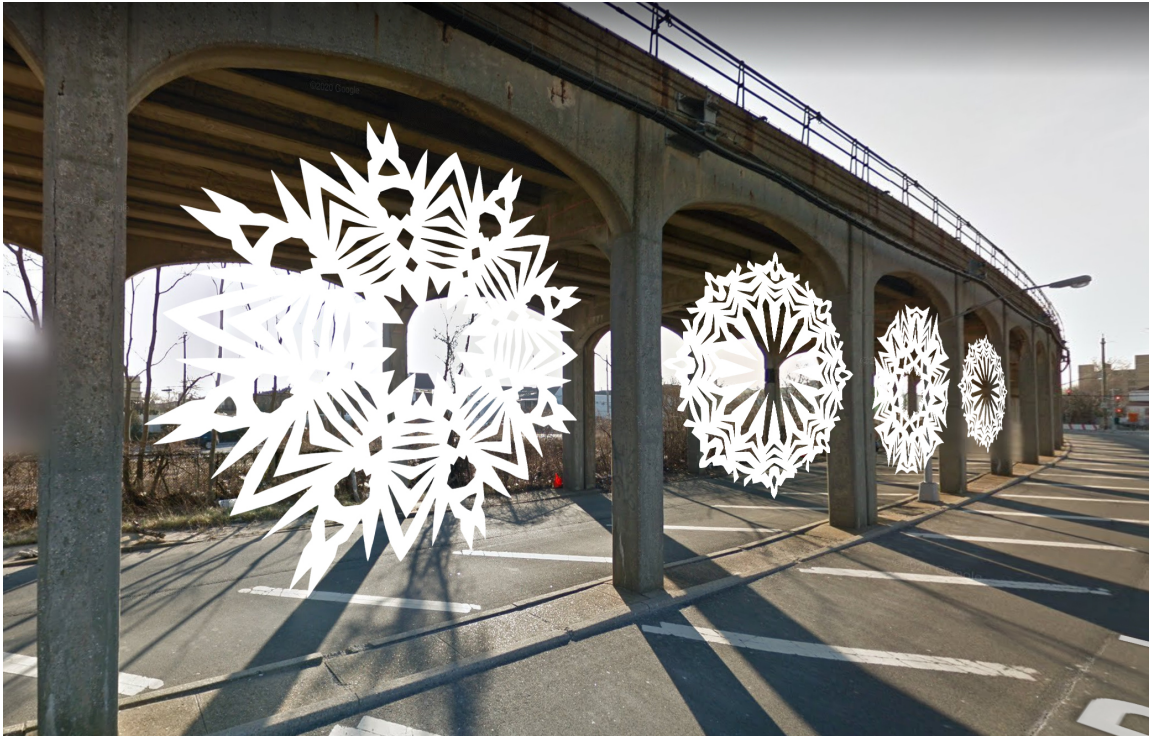
AMELIA MARZEC

ALL THAT IS SEEN AND UNSEEN

An installation inspired by the Slavic form of papercutting, a decorative folk art common in Eastern Europe. The installation will draw attention to the conflict in Ukraine, while carrying forward this cultural phenomenon and bringing it to the community in Rockaway.

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PROPOSAL: ALL THAT IS SEEN AND UNSEEN



DESCRIPTION

An installation of large hangings (as in the rendering above) inspired by the Slavic form of papercutting, a decorative folk art common in Eastern Europe. It is a technique that originated with shepherds passing the time, and then used to decorate homes. The paper cuts often depict everyday rural life. There will be a community workshop where people can create their own designs, depicting their lives today. The installation will draw attention to the conflict in Ukraine, while carrying forward this cultural phenomenon and bringing it to the community in Rockaway. It will also beautify the area under the bridge.

My interest in this is that some of my family is from Poland, and left due to WWII. I saw these paper cuts as illustrations in children's books as a kid. As my family members have been aging, it is becoming more important to me to incorporate folk techniques into my work, and to have this conversation about occupation, diaspora, and cultural preservation. There are many shared traditions and histories between Poland and Ukraine.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There will be a workshop on the history of the papercutting technique, and the different illustrations and designs that can be created. This will be appropriate for a youth program, but all ages would be able to participate. The only materials needed will be origami paper and scissors and a cutting mat that can be shared.

I have over 12 years of experience as an artist, and have installed work in brick and concrete walls, in addition to temporary public installations, and outdoor projections. My work often engages the community through workshops, incorporating participants' stories into the work, or through interactivity and participatory performance.

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