

COVER SHEET

Kevin Sudeith

Rockaway Petroglyph 2.0

Proposal Description:

I propose to install a three ton boulder and carve shallow reliefs of realistically rendered subjects from the Rockaways community. The piece will begin with community input regarding imagery and end with printmaking and papermaking workshops where the community can make and take home artworks embossed from the carved stone

PROPOSAL

My proposal is to install a boulder under the Elevated and carve it with a mix of local, cultural and environmental images emblematic of the Rockaways. To begin, I will spend some time canvassing the area and community for input and ideas while looking for a suitably sized boulder to repurpose for the artwork. After selecting a suitable site in consultation with stakeholders, I will carve the boulder on site while engaging with passers-by, explaining my work and soliciting further input. Input from passers-by was very influential in my 2017 Rockaway piece. Finally I will lead printmaking and papermaking workshops for community members. My objective is to make a portrait of the Rockaways at this moment in time with which the community identifies and which represents this moment well into the future.

The piece will remain in the community permanently, but it will be movable to accommodate changes in the site. By nature a boulder is indestructible, so it would be suitable for road furniture, climbing, and play. My 2017 piece served well as a bench and table for people waiting at the subway station. My pieces at the Annmarie Sculpture Garden and the Grand Rapids Public Museum engage multiple rocks in a spatial relationship forming a larger piece, so the second 2020 petroglyph would compliment the 2017, and the two pieces would communicate imaginatively and spatially.

Livability will be increased by adding value to an underutilized space. For example, rather than a concrete Jersey barrier, my work would be visually pleasing, intellectually interesting, a source of community identity and pride. My pieces serve as regional markers over which the community feel protective and possessive. Communities identify with my works fulfilling a primary function of art. People see their own lives at this moment written down for future viewers.

My work innovates the public realm by coupling an ancient art form, petroglyphs, with contemporary subjects focused on the local community. When community members discover my pieces, they experience something novel and to which they feel a relationship. Similarly, the printmaking workshops offer the community an opportunity to engage with the art and artist and bring home something they made from the shared public artwork.

My project would depict imagery from the immediate area and complement and build upon images in the 2017 petroglyph. While imagery would be determined by community engagement, initial image ideas are: the elevated A train, fishermen, bicycles, ships, more birds, and breaching whales. Carving an image of the elevated tracks would recognize the Art Under the Elevated project, reflect the architecture in the artwork, and establish a visual rapport between the artwork and its environment.

Community collaboration is the foundation of my practice, so working with RWA's programs is an exciting opportunity. I would be available to make slide presentations and tours of the artworks. Often the best images originate in one individual's personal story that invokes themes relevant to a broad population. Later through printmaking workshops I teach about art, local history, ecology, and print and paper making techniques. In Grand Rapids, MI during ArtPrize 2014 I worked with 2000 school students. My program was the most successful educational program at the Public Museum or ArtPrize. The environmental and aerospace imagery that appeal to me are well suited to the The Living Classroom curriculum. Similarly, environmental and recreational images would dovetail well with Shore Corps objectives.

My experience installing boulders, coupled with my artist's liability insurance policy, ensure safety during installation. The mass, static nature, and intrinsic durability of the material, ensure the safety of the piece over the long term. The size and shape of the boulder will be selected for ease of movement as well as stability when installed.

The goal of this work will be to create a document of the Rockaways at this moment in time with which the community identifies that can represent the community without maintenance for a long time.

PROJECT IMAGES

Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4



Image 5

