

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April, 2018

Contact the Artist or NYC Parks' Art in the Parks program:  
judith@judithmodrak.com or pressoffice@parks.nyc.gov

## **OUR MEMORIES AT NAUMBURG BANDSHELL AND THOMAS PAINE PARK:**

A participatory public artwork which weaves people's lives and experiences into a collective memory.



*Our Memories* installations on Governors Island (first photo, 2016) and in Central Park (April 20<sup>th</sup> 2018)

New York, NY: New York-based sculptor, **Judith Modrak**, exhibited her outdoor sculptural installation ***Our Memories*** in a one day event at **Naumburg Bandshell** in Central Park on Friday, **April 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.** (above photos). The sculptures are now on view in **Thomas Paine Park** for a 10-month installation with an opening event on **May 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** as part of the NYC Parks' Art in the Parks program.

***Our Memories*** is an evolving audience participatory installation. Recognizing the need to record one's personal experience, these neuron-inspired sculptures contain cavities in which participants place a color-coded "memory stone". The memory stones are classified into six emotive categories: joy, anger, love, sadness, fear, and surprise. During one-day events at the Naumburg Bandshell in Central Park and Thomas Paine Park, participants will transform two new sculptures by recalling a powerful memory and then sharing the memory by depositing it in a sculpture. This active act of recollection not only stirs up personal memories, it also physiologically generates a new collective memory. The *Our Memories* project is both a larger memorial piece, made complete by thousands of individual memories from people all over the world, and an experience that connects us to our core and to one another.

Two new sculptures were created for the Naumburg Bandshell and Thomas Paine Park installations and they will be exhibited along with five sealed sculptures from prior installations as part of the NYC Parks' Art in the Parks program.

When asked by ASCI writer Ellen Jantzen what drew her to memory, Modrak reflected, "The emotive quality of memories, even chronologically distant ones, is a source of ongoing interest to me. Why are some memories raw and tender decades later, and why do others fade into oblivion? Where do our minds and bodies physically store memories? Certain memories elicit joy, others dread and sadness — what is the role that these memories play in our neural blueprint and in how we engage with one another?"

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Judith Modrak a sculptor based in New York City. The forms and concepts in her work bridge art and science by exploring scientific advances that increase our understanding of psychological and neurological landscapes, including the nature of memory, brain physiology, the biochemistry of neurons and neurotransmitters, and the mechanics of sensory experiences. She translates these esoteric and often intangible concepts into three-dimensional, anthropomorphic forms. These biomorphic sculptures embody psychological and emotional states, often mirroring their beholders with a pronounced expression or bodily gesture. She asks herself what the hidden parts of ourselves look like and what they can tell us about our internal composition and one another.

For more information about Modrak and her work, please contact her at [judith@judithmodrak.com](mailto:judith@judithmodrak.com) or 917.991.6167 and visit [www.judithmodrak.com](http://www.judithmodrak.com) / Instagram/Facebook @JudithModrak.

For press inquiries, please contact Maeri Ferguson at [pressoffice@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:pressoffice@parks.nyc.gov) or 212.360.1311.

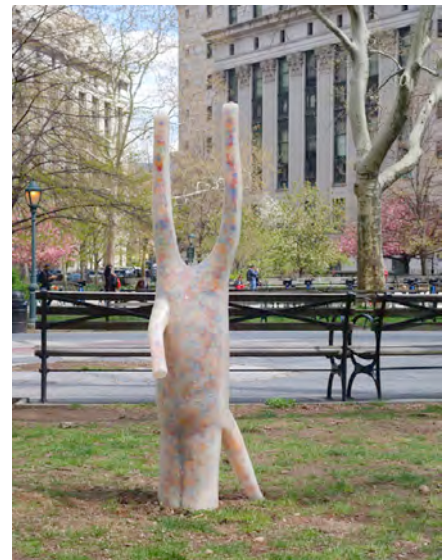
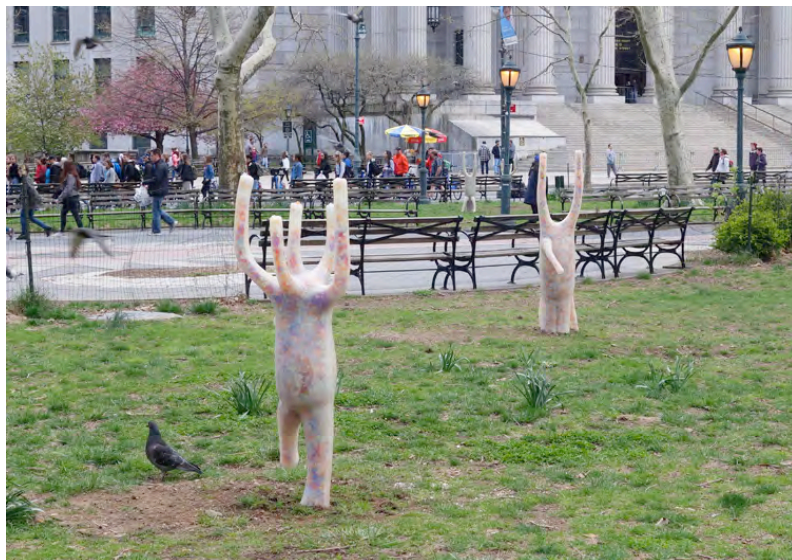
For over 50 years, NYC Parks' Art in the Parks program has brought contemporary public artworks to the city's parks, making New York City one of the world's largest open-air galleries. The agency has consistently fostered the creation and installation of temporary public art in parks throughout the five boroughs. Since 1967, NYC Parks has collaborated with arts organizations and artists to produce over 2,000 public artworks by 1,300 notable and emerging artists in over 200 parks. For more information about the program visit [www.nyc.gov/parks/art](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/art).



*Our Memories* at Naumburg Bandshell in Central Park on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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*Our Memories* at Thomas Paine Park, May 2018 – March 2019, Opening Event May 4<sup>th</sup>