

:: Artist and agitator Ruth Sergel creates compassionate works that explode out the boundaries of traditional mediums. With technical prowess, she choreographs experiences that move from the inner realm of dream, thought or feeling to the exterior world of public action. Inspired by rebels, visionary pedagogues and magicians, Ruth's work bridges art and technology, memory and wonder to incite individual and social transformation.

Ruth's films, public interventions and interactive installations have been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, Boston Museum of Fine Art, Corcoran Gallery of Art, National Museum of Women in the Arts, New-York Historical Society, Gray Art Gallery, Anthology Film Archives and 3LD Art + Technology Center. Her work has been shown internationally including Clermont-Ferrand (France), Shift Festival (Basel) and Théâtre de la Ville, (Paris) as well as broadcast on the Independent Film Channel (IFC) and PBS.

Ruth's projects have been supported by the Jerome Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts, Experimental Television Center, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and the 21st Century ILGWU Heritage Fund. Ruth was the Resident Researcher in Video at New York University's Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP) where she received her masters degree and a fellow in Public Humanities at Brown University. Additional residencies include Yaddo, Squeaky Wheel, CESTA (Czech Republic), Digital Performance Institute, and Here Arts Center. Her work has been widely covered in the press including the New York Times, NY Daily News, NPR, CNN, and the Huffington Post.

In 2011, Ruth was honored to be included in the Community Leaders Briefing Series at the Obama White House.

Her first book, See You in the Streets! Art, Action + Remembering the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, won a 2017 American Book Award.

For more on her work please visit: www.streetpictures.org

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See You in The Streets! Art, Action + Remembering the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire 2016 (University of Iowa Press)

Winner of a 2017 American Book Award, *See You In the Streets* is an exuberant account of creating socially engaged art as an incitement to individual and social transformation. The book fearlessly recounts the joys and pitfalls of a fierce and compassionate art practice that acts as a provocation for change.

“Ruth Sergel’s moving, riveting, and important book reminds us that ‘in 2011, the year of the Triangle Fire Centennial, 17 people in the United States were killed by terrorism, while 4,609 died in workplace accidents.’” Rebecca Solnit, author, *The Faraway Nearby*

“Ruth Sergel has been ahead of the curve for years and this book proves it. We should listen very carefully to what she wants to do next!” Frida Kahlo, founding member, *Guerrilla Girls*

“In this passionate book, Sergel, a remarkable activist and artist, writes eloquently about one of history’s worst workplace tragedies—the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911. Sergel also explains how art can be used ingeniously to keep memories of that tragedy alive so that we in the twenty-first century never forget the hugely important lessons to be drawn from it.” Steven Greenhouse, author, *The Big Squeeze: Tough Times for the American Worker*

Sergel’s work demonstrates the power of temporal strategies for commemorative action to make the past visible and relevant to the present. Jennifer Koslow, *The Public Historian*

“The 2011 centennial commemoration of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire led by Ruth Sergel was among the most successful unions of art and social justice I have yet to witness in my thirty-year career. Beautifully written, *See You in the Streets* offers new generations of social and cultural activist insight into this magnificent model program and ways to utilize the ‘unexpected beauty’ in the world toward social justice.” Steve Zeitlin, founding director, *City Lore*

Additional Writing

NYU Journal of Legislation & Public Policy, Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition, Volume 14, Number 3

The Gotham Center for NYC History, Who Gets to Tell the Story of September 11, 2001?, 11 Sept 2016

Work History News, Chalk, Volume 34 No 2 Summer/Fall 2017

Chalk 2004-present

On 25 March 1911 the Triangle Factory fire took the lives of 146 garment workers, most of them immigrant women and girls, and galvanized a movement for social and economic justice.

Each anniversary of the infamous blaze, volunteers fan out across the city to inscribe in chalk the names and ages of the Triangle dead in front of their former homes. An ephemeral memorial, it only exists if each year people are willing to risk taking to the streets to insist on making the lives of the 146 workers visible.

#maga 2016-7

From the Electoral College vote through the Inauguration, an Instagram project of 52 cards each provoking conversation by illustrating questionable greatness and using the #maga tag.

Gaza Ghetto 2014

In response to Operation Protective Edge and the destruction of Gaza. Each day, one hundred times: the name and age of a human being killed in Gaza scrawled on an arm, photographed and posted on Facebook.

Voices of 9.11 2011|2002-2003

From 2002-3 we recorded over 500 personal testimonies inside our homemade video booth in New York City, Washington D.C., Shanksville, PA and the Pentagon to create this people's archive. Created at here is new york: a democracy of photographs, Voices of 9.11, with radical simplicity we insisted on the people's right to tell their own story.

Selected exhibition Corcoran Gallery of Art, Théâtre de la Ville (Paris) and the New-York Historical Society.

Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition 2008-2011

Over a three year period, the coalition grew into a network of over 250 partners nationwide creating hundreds of activist, artistic and educational events for the 2011 Centennial of the fire.

Today the Coalition is spearheading the effort to establish a permanent memorial to the Triangle workers in New York City.

\$700 Billion for the Arts... Because We're too Big to Fail!! 2010

Who does more for America - banks or the arts??

A public intervention on behalf of artists. Join the movement to make the case - We're too big to fail!

Alice in Berlin 2012

It's a poor sort of memory that only works backwards. -Lewis Carroll

Alice in Berlin slyly evokes our fantasy of childhood innocence to lead the audience on a hallucinatory trip into today's global chaos. Each scene of the interactive installation builds on the audience's physical participation to question our place in history and individual accountability.

Selected Exhibition Arcilesi Homberg Fine Art (NYC), Out of Line Gallery (Chicago), Multimedier Schlachthof | 48 Stunden Neukölln (Berlin).

Zhanaozen 2012

Created for the one year anniversary of the massacre of striking miners, the viewers' physical movements dissolve projections of state media revealing evidence of the slaughter and the protests that followed.

Exhibition Villa Faltin | Berlin

Magic Box 2009

In the guise of a pre-cinema device, Magic Box melds 19th century illusionism with current technologies to provide an intimate experience with a stranger.

Selected Exhibition Shift Festival (Basel), 3LD Art & Technology Center, ITP Spring Gallery and the Hudson Guild Gallery (NYC)

Turing Machine 2007

A collaboration with Gian Pablo Villamil.

Turing Machine utilizes a re-purposed typewriter as a model Turing Machine to depict the life of Alan Turing, the father of modern computing, whose work led to the breaking of the infamous Enigma code during WWII. When Turing is arrested and persecuted for his homosexuality, the machine 'breaks, to reveal the path that led to his suicide.

AI 2005

A portrait of homeless artist Alfred Carlo based on his stories and paintings. The audience moves physical objects which reveal and manipulate the documentary of AI's multifaceted life as painter, vet, raconteur and man of the street.

Alchemy of Light 2010

Alchemy of Light depicts the life of legendary magician Torrini as a parable from a time when our lives first became mediated by machines.

In the 19th century, Torrini, renowned for his astonishing illusions, accidentally killed his own child during a performance of the bullet catch trick. Live and virtual encounters with the Torrini family guide the audience through 19th century illusionist tricks expanded by current interactive technologies as Torrini vainly struggles to conjure back his lost family. The seduction and limits of technology in human relations painfully revealed.

Ethel 2007

Created with Ethel Greenbaum, 89 years old.

Participants join Ethel at a dining table. She raises her hand and the table is transformed into a projection surface. Her movements triggering images and sound that reveal a passionate life of personal and political engagement. The audience joins in, moving their hands across the table to uncover more of Ethel's life story.

Ethel stands and speaks for the first time encouraging the audience to lead lives full of love of the world. She thanks them for attending and passes out chocolates and of a love letter she wrote to her late husband.

Pisces Vorat Maior Minorem (Boo!) 2006

Created in collaboration with Luigi Coppola (Italy), Susan Hawkins (Australia/UK), Olivia Pisani (Australia/UK), Paulina Velazquez Solis (Costa Rica/Mexico).

A site-specific work as part of an international residency at CESTA in the Czech Republic.

Investigating issues of power, the audience works their way through a series of interactive installations with a live performer inviting complicity and challenging group passivity.

Belle (2004) 35mm • 16 min. • color

Quietly shocking in its frankness
- Film Threat

Belle is a subversive fable of old age and beauty. The fiction film was created with a community of 80 - 93 year old women whose participation as actors and advisors shaped the heart of the work.

Premiere Tribeca Film Festival
Selected Screenings IFP Film Market,
Hamptons International Film Festival,
Women in the Directors Chair, CinéWomen,
Rhode Island Film Festival, Lake Placid
Film Festival, Coney Island Film Festival,
Vermont Film Festival, Tiburon Film
Festival, High Falls Film Festival, Reel
Venus, Woodstock Film Festival
Broadcast IFC

Cusp (2000) 35mm • 25 Minutes • Color

Lays bare the growing pains of a 12 year
old girl -New York Times

There is an electric moment for girls as
they leave behind the bold egoism of
girlhood for the shaky dislocations of
adolescence. Cusp is a fiction film created
with a group of 11-12 year old girls hitting
the wall of early adolescence.

Premiere New Directors/New Films (MoMA)
Selected Screenings Clermont-Ferrand
(European Premiere) Women Make Waves
(Asian Premiere), UN (for the Special
Session on Children), Anthology Film
Archives, AIR Gallery, IFP, Black Maria,
Women in the Directors Chair
Broadcast IFC

Bruce (1998) 35mm • 3 Minutes • B&W

A duet for camera + dancer that challenges
expectations of grace and disability.
Created with Bruce Jackson.

Premiere Los Angeles Independent Film
Festival
Selected Screenings Boston Museum of Fine
Art, National Museum of Women in the
Arts, The Place (London), Passages (Milan),
Exploratorium (San Francisco), General
Roca (Argentina), El Infinito (Mexico),
Projections (Toronto), American Dance
Festival, Sisyphus Emerging (Limelight
Nightclub), CMJ Music Festival, Dance on
Camera, IDAT 99 (International Dance +
Technology), Toronto Worldwide Shorts,
CineWomen, Dis This...Film Festival,
Brooklyn Disability Film Festival,
Broadcast PBS

:: Grants + Awards

2017 American Book Award 2013 New York City Council, Citation 2011 Community Leaders Briefing Series at Obama White House, 21st Century ILGWU (International Ladies Garment Workers) Fund, Occupational Health Awareness | 4ever Champions Award, NY State Council for the Humanities 2010 World Technology Award in the Arts (nominee), Lower Manhattan Cultural Council | Swing Space, Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America | Gayle Award, New York University Community Fund, Sparkplug Foundation 2009 New York State Council on the Arts | Individual Artist, Experimental Television Center | Finishing Funds, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council | Manhattan Community Arts Fund 2008 Tisch School of the Arts GSO Grant 2006-2008 Tisch School of the Arts Fellowship 2005 Kodak Award | IFP Project Involve 2003 Jerome Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts | Individual Artist, Alice's Three Minute Film Festival | Best Drama 2002 Picture This... Honorable Mention 2001 Black Maria Film Festival | Juror's Citation

:: Residencies + Fellowships

2014 Yaddo 2010 JNB Center for Public Humanities | Brown University, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council | Swing Space 2009 Squeaky Wheel 2008-2009 NYU | ITP | Resident Researcher in Video, HERE Art Center, Digital Performance Institute 2006-2008 NYU | Tisch School of the Arts Fellowship 2006 CESTA (Czech Republic)

:: Education

European Graduate School
Philosophy, Art & Critical Thought
PhD (expected 2020)
New York University
Tisch School of the Arts | ITP
MPS (2006-2008)
Swarthmore College
Political Science
BA (1980-1984)

:: Employment

2008-2011 Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition, Founder + Director
2009 NYU | ITP, Adjunct Teacher
1989-2006 IATSE 600 (Cinematographers Guild) Freelance Camera

:: Artist Talks

2017 New School for Social Research, Workmen's Circle (Brooklyn Institute for Social Research, Hillman Foundation), Cornell University (Kheel Center), Bronx Community College, Westhampton Library 2016 Tenement Museum 2012 Columbia University / Oral History Department, CUNY / Murphy Institute for Worker Education 2011 National Council on Public History | Annual Meeting, Metropolitan Museum of Art / Education Department, Gotham Center for New York City History / CUNY Graduate Center, Long Island University, Metropolitan Chapter for the Victorian Society in America 2010 Gotham Center for New York City History | CUNY Graduate Center, Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, Long Island University 2009 Gotham Center for New York City History | CUNY Graduate Center, Baruch College, Fordham University 2008 MediaLab Prado (Madrid), Prelude Festival '08 2006 National Oral History Association / Annual Meeting, NYU Summer Institute, Fordham University, 2004 Tribeca Film Festival, IFP Film Market 2001 American Dance Film Festival 2000 Women Make Movies, University of Florida

:: Selected Bibliography

Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas Rebecca Solnit + Joshua Jelly-Schapiro (University of California Press, 2016)
The Poetry of Everyday Life: Storytelling and the Art of Awareness Steve Zeitlin (Cornell University Press, 2016)
Mamaleh Knows Best Marjorie Ingall (Harmony, 2016)
Mapping the Soul of the City Katharine Harmon (Princeton Architectural Press, 2016)
Fire and Blood so Cheap: The Triangle Fire and its Legacy, Al Marrin (Knopf Books for Young Reader, 2011)
The New York City Triangle Factory Fire, Leigh Benin, Rob Linné, Adrienne Sosin, and Joel Sosinsky (Arcadia Publishing, 2011)
A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities that Arise in Disaster Rebecca Solnit (Penguin Books, 2010)
Terror Dream Susan Faludi (Metropolitan Books, Henry Holt and Company, 2008)

:: Selected Press

Reviews in History Review: See You In the Streets 3 August 2017 **The Public Historian** Review: See You In the Streets Vol. 39 No. 2, May 2017 **Jewish Currents** Commemorating the Fire 16 March 2017 **The Forward** The Art World Responds To Trump's Inauguration With A Call For Strikes 9 January 2017 **The New Yorker** City of Women 11 October 2016 **WBAI** Beyond the Pale 24 March 2013 **New York Times** In Tragedy: A Mission to Remember 19 March 2011 **NY Daily News** Artist captures 500 9/11 memories in archive of filmed testimonies 9 Sept 2011 **Fishko Files/WNYC** See for Yourself 9 September 2011 **Huffington Post** Who Should Tell the Story of 9/11? 8 September 2011 **Alef: The NEXT Conversation** The Poetry of a Chalk Memorial 30 March 2011 **NY Daily News** Workers Who Died in Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Honored 26 March 2011 **New York Times** Triangle Fire: In Memoriam 25 March 2011 **CNN** Ruth Sergel: Remembering the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, on it's 100th Anniversary 25 March 2011 **NPR** A Somber Centennial for the Triangle Factory Fire 24 March 2011 **Voice of America** 100th Anniversary Recalls Horror of New York Triangle Fire 24 March 2011 **WNYC** Remembering the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire 100 Years Later 21 March 2011 **The Villager** Thousands will Mark Triangle Factory Fire 100th Anniversary 17 March 2011 **New York Times** Remembering the Triangle Fire, 100 Years Later 14 March 2011 **Huffington Post** The Triangle Factory Fire Centennial and Why it Matters Today 8 March 2011 **The Forward** Paying Tribute to the Fire's Pained Legacy 23 February 2011 **New York Times** Choosing Not to Forget What is Painful to Recall 25 March 2010 **NY Daily News** Workers Who Died in Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Honored" 26 March 2010 **The Forward** Triangle Shirtwaist Fire: An Indelible Memory, Etched in Chalk 24 March 2010 **The Forward** Remembering the Triangle Fire 20 April 2007 **New York Times** Memorials in Chalk 3 April 2005 **WomenArts** Its Time to be Fierce Dreamers: Interviews with Three Filmmakers Feb 2005 **New York Times** Belle: Breakthrough Roles, 8 of Them 25 April 2004 **Film Threat** Girls on Film 19 July 2004 **Washington Post** Mourning, Still a Work in Progress 13 September 2002 **Brooklyn Rail** Cusp 4 March 2002 **The Chicago Reader** Women in the Director's Chair International Film 16 March 2001 **New York Times** Young Men Journeying Into Wilds of Manhood 8 April 2000 **IndieWire** Long Form Shorts Come of Age 28 March 2000 **Village Voice** Devil Inside 17 October 2000.