

Ruth Sergel

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:: Bio

Inspired by rebels, visionary pedagogues and magicians, Ruth Sergel creates bold and compassionate works that bridge art and technology, memory and wonder to incite 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. International exhibition includes Clermont-Ferrand (France), Shift Festival (Basel) and Théâtre de la Ville (Paris) as well as broadcast on the Independent Film Channel (IFC) and PBS.

In 2004 Ruth inaugurated Chalk the annual community commemoration of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire and she is the founder of the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition. Her projects have garnered support from 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, 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.

In 2016 Ruth's first book, *See You in the Streets: Art, Action + Remembering the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire*, was published by the University of Iowa Press. Hailed as a "moving, riveting, and important book" by Rebecca Solnit, this exuberant account of a social art practice won a 2017 American Book Award.

In 2021 a feature length documentary, *Memory Box; Echoes of 9/11*, based on her project *Voices of 9.11* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, aired on MSNBC.

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

:: Commissioned Work and Solo Exhibitions

- 2020-2021 *Tikkun Olam*, solo exhibition at Kunstverein Grafschaft Bentheim, curator Muriel Meyer
2019 *Immerwährende Verwandlung*, an interactive cabinet of wonders commissioned and on permanent exhibition at Universität Hamburg

:: Selected Exhibitions, Screenings + Live Events

- 2021 *Bruce* American Dance Festival Retrospective
2017 *#Instalove* (director/video w. Catherine Duquette, writer/performer) English Theater Berlin
2015 *Magic Lantern* Burchfield Penney Museum, Buffalo, NY
2014 *Magic Box* Hudson Guild Gallery, NYC
Alice in Berlin Adirondack Open Studio
2013 *Alice in Berlin* Arcilesi Homberg Fine Art, NYC
Alice in Berlin Out of Line Gallery, Chicago
2012 *Alice in Berlin* Multimedier Schlachthof, Berlin
Zhanaozen Faltin-Villa, Berlin
2011 *Voices of 9.11* New-York Historical Society
Voices of 9.11 Theatre de la Ville, Paris, Festival d'Islam
Chalk Grey Art Gallery, NYC
2010 *Alchemy of Light* Swing Space, NYC
2009 *Magic Box* Shift Festival, Basel
Magic Box 3LD Art + Technology Center, NYC
Alchemy of Light CultureMart, Here Arts Center, NYC
2008 *The Invention of Murder* (with Allison Parrish, Adam Simon, Jeff A. Sable)
Come Out + Play Festival, NYC
2007 *Voices of 9.11* New-York Historical Society
Magic Box ITP Winter Show
Meta Hari (with Neilson Abeel) ITP Spring Show
The Invention of Murder (with Allison Parrish, Adam Simon, Jeff A Sable) ITP Spring Show
Ethel ITP Winter Show
2006 *Don't Worry!* (video for performance, dir. Luigi Coppola) Torino Contemporanea 3, Italy
Pisces Vorat Maior Minorem (Boo!) (with Luigi Coppola, Susan Hawkins, Olivia Pisani, Paulina Velazquez Solis Paulina Velasquez) CESTA, Czech Republic
Turing Machine (with Gian Pablo Villamil) ITP Winter Show
2005 *Al Troika* Ranch Live-I Workshop
2004 *Belle* Tribeca Film Festival, Hamptons International Film Festival, IFP Film Market, Woodstock Film Festival, Women in the Directors Chair, Rhode Island Film Festival, Lake Placid Film Festival, Coney Island Film Festival, CinéWomen, Vermont Film Festival, Tiburon Film Festival, High Falls Film Festival, Reel Venus
Bruce CMJ Music Festival
2002 *Voices of 9.11* Corcoran Gallery of Art
2000 *Cusp* New Directors/New Films (MoMA), Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival United Nations (Special Session for Children), Boston Museum of Fine Art, Anthology Film Archives, Independent Feature Project (Buzz Cuts), Black Maria Film Festival, Hamptons International Film Festival, Women in the Directors Chair, Newport Film Festival, Bumbershoot/One Reel Festival, CinéWomen, AIR Gallery, Shorts International Film Festival, Harlem Film Festival, Lower Eastside Girls' Film Festival, Lake Placid Film Forum, Women Make Waves (Taiwan), Cork International Film Festival (Ireland), Dingle Film Festival (Ireland), Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, Stony Brook Film Festival, Portland International Film Festival.
1998 *Bruce* Los Angeles Independent Film Festival, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Anthology Film Archives, The Place (London), Toronto Worldwide Film, Festival, General Roca Film Festival (Argentina), Video Passages (Milan), Projections (Toronto), Dis This...Film Festival, Brooklyn International Disability Film Festival, Sisyphus Emerging (Limelight Nightclub), American Dance Film Festival, Stony Brook Film Festival, Exploratorium, Aurora Picture Show, Alice's Three Minute Film Festival, El Infinito (Mexico), IDAT 99 (International Dance and Technology), Do Boys Dozens, Dance on Camera, CineWomen, CMJ Music Fest

:: Film Broadcast

IFC, PBS, Shorts International (US, Turkey, France), Indie Fuxion

:: Book and Publications by the Artist

See You in the Streets! Art, Action and Remembering the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire

(University of Iowa Press, 2016)

American Book Award winner (2017)

Gotham Center for New York City History *Who Gets to Tell the Story of September 11, 2001?* (2016)

Signal Culture Cookbook *Recipe: Alice in Berlin* (2013)

NYU Journal of Legislation and Public Policy *Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition* Vol. 14, No. 3:
611- 623 (2011)

:: Grants + Awards

2017 American Book Award

2013 New York City Council, Citation

2011 White House Community Leaders Briefing Series under president Obama

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

Sparkplug Foundation

New York University Community Fund

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, Individual artist grant

New York State Council on the Arts, Individual Artist

Alice's Three Minute Film Festival – Best Drama Award

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 Film + Media Arts Center

2008 Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP) NYU/Tisch School of the Arts

HERE Art Center

Digital Performance Institute

2006 CESTA (Czech Republic)

:: Affiliation + Education

Künstlersozialkasse 2017 - present

National Writers Union 2016 – 2020

Berufsverband Bildender Künstler (BBK) 2013 - 2020

IATSE 600 (Cinematographers Guild) 1989 – 2006

New York University Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP), MPS (2006-2008)

Swarthmore College Political Science, BA (1980-1984)

:: Selected Bibliography

- Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas** Rebecca Solnit, Joshua Jelly-Schapiro (University of California Press, 2016) p. 88
- The Poetry of Everyday Life: Storytelling and the Art of Awareness** Steve Zeitlin (Cornell University Press, 2016)
- Mamaleh Knows Best: What Jewish Mothers Do to Raise Successful, Creative, Empathetic Independent Children** Marjorie Ingall (Harmony, 2016) p. 210-212.
- Mapping the Soul of the City** Katharine Harmon (Princeton Architectural Press, 2016) p. 134-135.
- Fire and Blood so Cheap: The Triangle Fire and its Legacy** Al Marrin (Knopf Books for Young Reader, 2011) p. 145 – 146
- The New York City Triangle Factory Fire** Leigh Benin, Rob Linné, Adrienne Sosin, and Joel Sosinsky with Workers United (ILGWU) and HBO Documentary Films (Arcadia, 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) p. 287 – 289

:: Film

- Memory Box; Echoes of 9/11** Bjørn Johnson, David Belton, directors (MSNBC, Yard44 Films)
Feature length documentary based on *Voices of 9.11*
Premiere: Toronto International Film Festival
Broadcast: MSNBC, Peacock TV

:: Selected Press

- Hamburger Abendblatt** “Universität bekommt Museum zur eigenen Geschichte” Insa Gall, 24 Sept 2019
- Jewish Currents** “Commemorating the Fire” Esther Cohen, 16 March 2017
- The New Yorker** “City of Women” Rebecca Solnit, 11 October 2016
- NY Daily News**, “Artist captures 500 9/11 memories in archive of filmed testimonies”, 9 September 2011
- Fishko Files/WNYC** “See for Yourself”, 9 September 2011.
- Huffington Post** “Who Should Tell the Story of 9/11?”, 8 September 2011
- New York Times**, “In Tragedy: A Mission to Remember” Steve Greenhouse, 19 March 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” 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.

:: Selected Artist Talks, Panels + Workshops

US Department of Labor/Women's Bureau (2021), Kunstverein Graftschaft Bentheim (2021), Workers Circle (2020), Cornell University/YIVO Center for Jewish History (2018), International Center for Photography and The New School (2017), Workmen's Circle (2017), Kheel Center/Cornell University (2017), Tenement Museum (2016), Columbia University/Oral History Department (2012), CUNY/Murphy Institute for Worker Education (2012), National Council on Public History/Annual Meeting (2011), Metropolitan Museum of Art/Education Department (2011), Gotham Center for New York City History/CUNY Graduate Center (2011), Long Island University (2011), Metropolitan Chapter for the Victorian Society in America (2011), Gotham Center for New York City History/CUNY Graduate Center (2010), Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (2010), Long Island University (2010), Gotham Center for New York City History/CUNY Graduate Center (2009), Baruch College (2009), Fordham University (2009), MediaLab Prado - Madrid (2008), Prelude Festival '08 (2008), National Oral History Association/Annual Meeting (2006), NYU Summer Institute (2006), Fordham University (2006), Tribeca Film Festival (2004), IFP Film Market (2004), American Dance Film Festival (2001), Women Make Movies (2000), University of Florida (2000).

:: List of Works

2004 – present *Chalk* (annual public intervention for the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire workers)
2014/2018/2021 *Gaza Ghetto* (social intervention)
2021 *146 Workers* (video)
2020 *Pandemic Postcards* (collage)
2020 – 2021 *Tikkun Olam* (interactive video, collage, found objects and photography)
2019 *Immerwährende Verwandlung* (interactive cabinet of wonders)
2017 *#Instalove* (director/video for live performance with Catherine Duquette writer/performer)
Forbidden Words (public intervention)
2016 – 2017 *#MAGA* (social intervention)
2016 *See You in the Streets: Art, Action and Remembering the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire* (book University of Iowa Press)
2012 *Zhanaozen* (interactive documentary)
2012 *Alice in Berlin* (interactive installation)
2008-2011 *Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition* (public intervention)
2010 *Alchemy of Light* (live performance)
2010 *\$700 Billion for the Arts – Because We Are Too Big To Fail* (Live Event/ Social Intervention)
2008 *The Invention of Murder* with Allison Parrish, Adam Simon, Jeff Sable (big game)
2007 *Magic Box* (interactive installation)
2007 *Meta Hari* with Neilson Abeel (interactive installation)
2007 *Turing Machine* (interactive documentary, with Gian Pablo Villamil)
2007 *Ethel* (interactive documentary performance)
2006 *Piesces Vorat Maior Minorem* (Boo!) (site-specific performance with Luigi Coppola (Italy), Susan Hawkins (Australia/UK), Olivia Pisani, (Australia/UK), Paulina Velazquez Solis (Costa Rica/Mexico))
2005 *AI* (interactive documentary)
2004 *Belle* (fiction film, 35mm, color)
2002 – 2003 *Voices of 9.11: A People's Archive* (public intervention)
2000 *Cusp* (fiction film, 35mm, color)
1998 *Bruce* (dance film, 35mm, black and white)