

The federal government, through the General Services Administration's Art in Architecture program, recognizes the significant contributions that visual artists make to the social and cultural life of the nation. For more than thirty-six years, the Art in Architecture program has commissioned American artists to create publicly scaled and permanently installed works of art for federal buildings across the nation. GSA allocates one-half of one percent of the estimated construction costs of new buildings and the modernization of existing buildings to commission artists.

Since the inception of GSA's art program more than three hundred and fifty works of art have been installed. This book showcases twenty-seven of these commissions. All from the past decade, these works provide a window into the important cultural and civic discourses between the American people and their government. These artworks also affirm, through their creative and aesthetic expressions, that our democratic society is something to cherish and celebrate. Selected from across the nation, these commissions highlight the talents and diversity of America's artists and the wide spectrum of aesthetic, conceptual, and theoretical inquiry they are exploring.

Art in Architecture projects are not solo endeavors. They require the commitment and close cooperation of artists, architects, fabricators, construction contractors, federal clients, private-sector art professionals, and GSA project teams—particularly the project managers, contracting officers, regional fine arts officers, and national Art in Architecture project managers. This book is a tribute to the hard work and collaboration of all those individuals who have made GSA's art projects successful.

The works created through the Art in Architecture program are not only for us to enjoy today but are a national legacy for future generations. Just as we experience our nation's history through the public art and architecture so generously bequeathed to us by our predecessors, these commissions will speak to future generations about our time. They are a record of who we are as a people and what we aspire to be as a nation.