

Betsy Damon

Artist & Activist

elizabeth.damon@gmail.com

917.977.1411

keepersofthewaters.org

SUMMARY

Betsy Damon is an internationally-recognized artist whose public work and living systems, such as the *Living Water Garden*, have received widespread acclaim. She directs Keepers of the Waters, a nonprofit focused on ecological planning, advocacy and education. Damon was a semi-finalist for the Buckminster Fuller Award and a finalist for the Stockholm Water Prize. Damon has lectured widely in the U.S., Europe and China. She's been a visiting artist at countless colleges and universities.

EDUCATION

MFA Columbia University	New York, NY	1966
BA Skidmore College	Saratoga Springs, NY	1963

PROJECTS, ARTWORKS & EVENTS

Author, <i>People's Water</i>	New York, NY	To be published 2021
--------------------------------------	--------------	----------------------

A radical book, part memoir part how-to manual, written to empower people to take charge of their waters.

<i>Principles of Water</i>	New York, NY	2019
-----------------------------------	--------------	------

Sumi ink and charcoal flatwork reveals the invisible movements of water, along with some of water's visual manifestations. Published in *Public Art Dialogue* in 2020.

Catalyst/Artist, <i>Living Waters of the Cheyenne River</i>	North Dakota	Organizing stage, 2019
--	--------------	------------------------

This project aims to use biological processes to clean up uranium tailings from the Cheyenne River.

Director, <i>Living Waters of Larimer</i>	Larimer, PA	2012-2016
--	-------------	-----------

This community-based project repurposes rainwater to assist with economic and sustainable development.

Public Art Project in Chinook Bend Natural Area	Carnation, WA	2007-2009
--	---------------	-----------

<i>Spirals of Life</i> sculpture at the Hope and Healing Center	Memphis, TN	2006-2009
--	-------------	-----------

Olympic Forest Park	Beijing, China	2002-2006
----------------------------	----------------	-----------

Worked with Tsing Hua Design Company to design this plant-based water purification park.

<i>Sounds of Water</i> at Turtle Bay Arboretum	Redding, CA	2002-2004
---	-------------	-----------

Beijing Bureau of Hydraulic Research & Engineering	Beijing, China	2001-2003
---	----------------	-----------

Designer & Director, <i>Living Water Garden</i>	Chengdu, China	1996
--	----------------	------

Designed a 6-acre park which uses bio-remediation, aeration and constructed wetlands to clean river water. The project also contains an environmental education center, as well as sculptural elements.

Keepers: Citizens' Rights & Responsibilities	Minnesota	1991-1992
---	-----------	-----------

Collaborated with the Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs, the Minnesota Extension Service, and the Water Resource Research Center to mobilize art, science, and citizens around a community's water.

SELECT EXHIBITIONS

<i>Art & Ecology</i>	Stony Brook University	2021
<i>The Penumbra Age</i>	Museum of Modern Art Warsaw	2020
<i>Keepers of the Waters: Lhasa & Chengdu</i>	Taipei Biennial	2019
<i>Feminist, and...</i>	Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh, PA	2012
Lecture & Workshop	Art Street Gallery	2009
Environmental Murals with chinese artists	Shanghai Children's Palace	2001
<i>A Memory of Clean Water</i>	Everhart Museum, many others	1986-91
<i>An Homage to Rivers</i>	Aspen Art Museum Biennial	1990

Numerous Other Exhibitions & Performance Events U.S., Europe, China 1966-90

Exhibited in New York, Soho 20, PS1

SELECT PERFORMANCES

<i>7,000 Year Old Woman</i>	Streets of Manhattan	1976-79
<i>Blind Beggar Woman</i>	Streets of Manhattan	1979-81
<i>A Rape Memory</i>	Los Angeles	1981-83
<i>The Shrine for Everywoman</i>	Intl. Festival of Women Artists	1985-90
<i>Meditation with Stones for the Survival of the Planet</i>	Traveling exhibition	1983-89

SELECT LECTURES

<i>Infrastructure, Water, and the Americas</i>	Stony Brook University	2020
Speaker, Stroom Den Haag	The Hague, the Netherlands	2019
Plenary Speaker, International Wetlands Conference	Changshu, China	2016
Penny Stamps Speaker Series	University of Michigan	2011

Lectures to government bureaus, universities & citizens U.S. & China 1970-2010

Host institutions and cities include: Global Network of Water Museum and Strom Museum, the Netherlands; Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World, Stroud, UK; Art Gene, Barrows, UK; Dayton, OH; UW-Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts; Tsinghua University; Peking University; Asian Development Bank; Carnegie Mellon University; Harvard; MIT; Xeriscape Conference; Beppu, Japan; a conference on ecology with engineers and a Qi Gong master, Chengdu, China.

ECOLOGICAL & SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Keepers of the Waters keepersofthewaters.org 1991-2016
Keepers of the Waters is an artist directed NFP that actively promotes living water systems. Keepers currently works with governments, students, and citizens on projects in 5 countries. Our networks collaborate to encourage each other and exchange solutions.

reSources: Saving Living Systems Sichuan, China 2007-present
Mapping of water systems in Western Sichuan.

Other significant projects United States, China 1990-present
Since the completion of the Living Water Gardens in Chengdu, Damon has worked with and been a consultant to numerous cities and companies in the U.S. and China: Duluth, MN in 1998; Portland, OR in 1998; St. Louis, MO in 2000; Dallas, TX in 2004; the Trinity Lakes Project in Dallas, TX in 2007; the design teams at CH2M Hill and WRT; Nanning and Baihei, Guanxi Province; Suzhou, Hong Zhou, Shenzhen in China.

WORKSHOPS & ORGANIZATIONS

Founded & directed No Limits for Women Artists 1980-2000

Founded & taught at a feminist art studio Cornell University 1972

Led wide range of workshops U.S., Europe, China 1970-present
Most recent examples include *Mapping Your Waters* and *Becoming a Water-Conscious Community*

GRANTS & AWARDS

Annual Grant for work with water	Kalliopeia Foundation	2012-2017
Grant for <i>Living Waters of Larimer</i>	Art Place America	2015
Grant for <i>Living Waters of Larimer</i>	Heinz Foundation	2014
Semi-Finalist	The Buckminster Fuller Institute	2010
Stockholm Water Prize Semi-Finalist	Stockholm Int'l Water Institute	2008
Award for Tong Zhou Project	ASLA	2006
Award for Fuzhou University design	ASLA	2005
2nd Place for Wen Yu He River	Chinese Planning Bureau	2004
3rd Place for Olympic Forest Park design	Chinese Planning Bureau	2003
Marion Weber National Award of Merit	Marion Foundation	2000
Places Award	EDRA	1999
Jerome Fellowship for <i>Living Water Garden</i>	Jerome Foundation	1997
Individual Artists Fellowship	Bush Fellowship	1996
Grant for Keepers Project in China	Flow Fund	1994
Grant for Keepers of the Waters	Duluth, Jerome Foundation	1994
Travel Grant to China	Jerome Foundation	1993
Grant for Keepers of the Waters	Arts Midwest	1992
Grant for Keepers of the Waters	3M	1991
Grant for Workshops for Artists & Scientists	Jerome Foundation	1991
Aspen Museum Grant for <i>An Homage to Rivers</i>	National Endowment for the Arts	1991
Mid-Life Career Award	Women's Caucus for Art	1989

NYFA Fellowship	New York Foundation for the Arts	1988
Grant for <i>Only One River</i> , a film about aquifers	Threshold Foundation	1987
Grant for <i>A Memory of Clean Water</i>	Everhart Museum, MA	1987
Grant for a Women's Troupe Street Events	New York Foundation	1979
Grant for the Feminist Studio in Ithaca, NY	NY State Council for the Arts	1973
Grant for collaboration with poet Polly Joan	Poetry Without Walls	1973
Grant for Hickety-Pickety	CAST	1972
Grant for the Moving Parallelogram Wall	CAST	1971

SELECT REVIEWS & PUBLICATIONS

<i>Companion to Art in the Public Realm</i>	Routledge Press	TBD
<i>Public Art Dialogue Featured Artist</i>	Public Art Dialogue	2019
<i>Woman's Art Journal—For the Blood of Gaia</i> (profile)	Christine Filippone	2018
<i>Science, Technology, and Utopias</i>	Christine Filippone	2017
<i>Minding Nature</i>	Humans and Nature	2017
<i>A People's Art History of the United States</i>	Nicolas Lampert	2013
<i>Water craft</i>	Cleveland Urban Design Collab.	2010
<i>In the Making: Creative Options for Contemporary Art</i>	Linda Weintraub	2003
Documentary on the Living Water Garden	BBC	2001
"What Follows" Interview Series: Betsy Damon	University of Colorado, Boulder	2000
<i>The Living Water Garden</i>	Whole Earth Catalogue	2000
<i>Living Water Park</i>	ERDA's <i>Places Journal</i>	2000
<i>Public Art Review: Conversations with the Earth</i>	Margaret Carde	1998
<i>Expanding Circles: Women, Art and Community</i>	Betty Brown	1996
<i>Power of Feminist Art: The American Movement</i>	Norma Broude & Mary D. Garrard	1996
<i>Sculpting with the Environment</i>	Baile Oaks	1995
<i>A Natural Order</i>	Hudson River Museum	1990
<i>Revered Earth</i>	Center for Contemp. Arts Santa Fe	1990
<i>Review: A Memory of Clean Water</i>	Elinor Gadon	1987
Reviews of video art	<i>The New York Times</i>	1987
Performance art		