

# ART SPIEL

Reflections on the work of contemporary artists

MARCH 2, 2021 BY ETTY YANIV

## Babs Reingold: Palette of Materials



*From left to right: Babs Reingold in the studio with Hair Nest '01, Hair Nest '16, Hair Nest '15, photo courtesy of the artist*

In her multi layered installations Babs Reingold's brings together drawing, sculpture, found objects, and at times video, to create potent environments alluding to the body, the environment, and the passage of time. Equipped with a fine tuned sensibility to materiality and an imaginative approach to spatiality, Babs Reingold's installations inhabit spaces as an alternate force of nature and take a life of their own.

**You were born in Venezuela and reside in Florida. Tell me a bit about yourself and what brought you to art.**

Although my studio and residence are now in St. Petersburg Florida, I had exotic beginnings. My parents lived in Caracas Venezuela for 8 years and I was born there. We then lived in Barbados for a year before my parents along with five children moved back to the United States.

I have been making objects and drawing since I was a young child, I guess one could say it began with my father. He was a photographer though this was not his livelihood. I remember his tiny closet dark room where I watched him develop photos. Being in the dark room with him and seeing images emerge in the photo solution was magic. When I was 10, my father became ill with MS. By age 15, we were living in a housing project in Cleveland's inner city. The only good thing about that period was my high school art teacher. He was fantastic and essentially the reason for me going to the Cleveland Institute of Art.

Search ...



Articles

About

FOLLOW US ON



FEATURED ARTICLES

[Babs Reingold: Palette of Materials](#)  
March 2, 2021

[Alexander Rutsch, The Voluptuous Eye at Kenise Barnes Fine Art](#)  
February 28, 2021

[Julia Kunin at Kate Werble Gallery](#)  
February 25, 2021

[KODA – A Focus on Artists](#)  
February 22, 2021

[This Two: Sun You at Geary](#)  
February 19, 2021

[Mary Ann Lomonaco: With Every Fiber at Pelham Art Center](#)  
February 17, 2021

[Greg Drasler: Crowded Places / Open Spaces at Betty Cuningham Gallery](#)  
February 15, 2021

[The Process of Weaving the Intentionally Fragmented at Transmitter](#)  
February 11, 2021

[Mercedes Matter Awards Show at Margalit Startup City](#)  
February 8, 2021

[Krista Svalbonas: Recent Works at Klompching](#)  
February 1, 2021

**Your earlier installations seem to explore different materials, such as fabric and light and thematically they seem to be related directly to social issues, such as in *Hung Out in the Projects*. Can you tell me about that installation work?**

Because of my life circumstances of a young Jewish girl growing up in a tough and unsafe environment in a project on the east side of Cleveland, my main concern at childhood was survival. *Hung Out In The Projects* relates to this experience. I must confess, however, that decades later, my thoughts on poverty are more complex, more subtle and although totally personal, more universal.



*Babs Reingold, Hung Out in the Projects, 2008-2010, Scaffold, Pieces on clothesline and floor made of rust and tea stained silk organza, encaustic, animal skins, canvas, and human hair. Old windows, old pails, and cages. Light control box fades lights on and off. A sound piece of city noises and other sounds by the artist Lin Culbertson plays continuously on a Boombox inside of an old trash can. Projected text on wall – thoughts and statistics on poverty – scroll, zoom and fade, 19w x 40d x 14h Feet photo courtesy of the artist*