

Rachel Kessler

Artist Bio

Rachel Kessler is an innovative community artist, multi-disciplinary collaborator and educator who explores landscape and community. She co-founded the collective [Wa Na Wari](#), a residential reclamation and story-telling project centering contemporary Black art and media in Seattle's Central District. Her experiments with boundary-breaking performance art, music and film led to co-founding interactive community art collaborations Typing Explosion and Vis-à-Vis Society in response to the isolation of raising young children. She is a writer whose work is defined by years of collaboration, teaching, recording, editing, publishing and distributing her own and others' work. Her teaching philosophy embraces trauma-informed emergent curriculum and encourages everybody's innate creativity. She believes art connects individuals to each other, helps establish and strengthen community, and that this web of connection has the power to heal and transform. For 25 years, she has facilitated hands-on art and writing classes and workshops through organizations such as Cornish College of the Arts, Writers In the Schools, and Path With Art, which provides trauma-informed therapeutic arts classes for adults in recovery from homelessness and addiction.

Her work is deeply rooted in place: she lives and works on Yesler Way, the Seattle street her ancestors immigrated to, worked on, built synagogues and schools on and died on. Mining her own personal identity and family history, she launched a community cartography project called "Profanity Hill: A Tour of Yesler Way," connecting 20,000 years of geography, historic first-hand accounts, music and mapping and story-telling. As Artist-In-Residence at public housing project Yesler Terrace, (where her great-grandparents lived) she and community members activated a vacant apartment slated for demolition with live music, poetry and story-telling, potlucks, dancing, photo albums, art shows, immersive VR and collective murals. It was one of the great honors of her life to help foster such expression, and to bear witness to the powerful transmission of personal memories and global history to their community. Her latest publication features her illustrations of the Pacific Northwest urban shore, *Cascadia Field Guide: Art, Ecology, Poetry*. Currently, she is working on an illustrated children's book about abortion with [Shout Your Abortion](#).

RACHEL KESSLER









breathing deep

till the end of the world

obstinate
diamond

and the loneliness

never told you

in the morning

in the morning



TRANS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
2
360 DEGREES
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
13
ADMISSION
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
37
APOLOGY
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
50
ASH
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
69
TH
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
103
BOUND
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
465
JEDI MASTER
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
GE
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
185
COMPOSITION
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
253
DISTORTION
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
312
FAKE IT
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
330
FLIGHT
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
386
AILSTORM
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
408
HERO'S JOURNEY
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
473
KALI
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS

VIS-A-VIS SOCIETY
IC
1000 TRANSFORMATIONS







to imagine what
possible. "hell hawks
bull horns

Chức năng của nghệ thuật là
để tưởng tượng những gì có thể.

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Nuxurka hal-abuurku waa
maia-awaalka waxa su

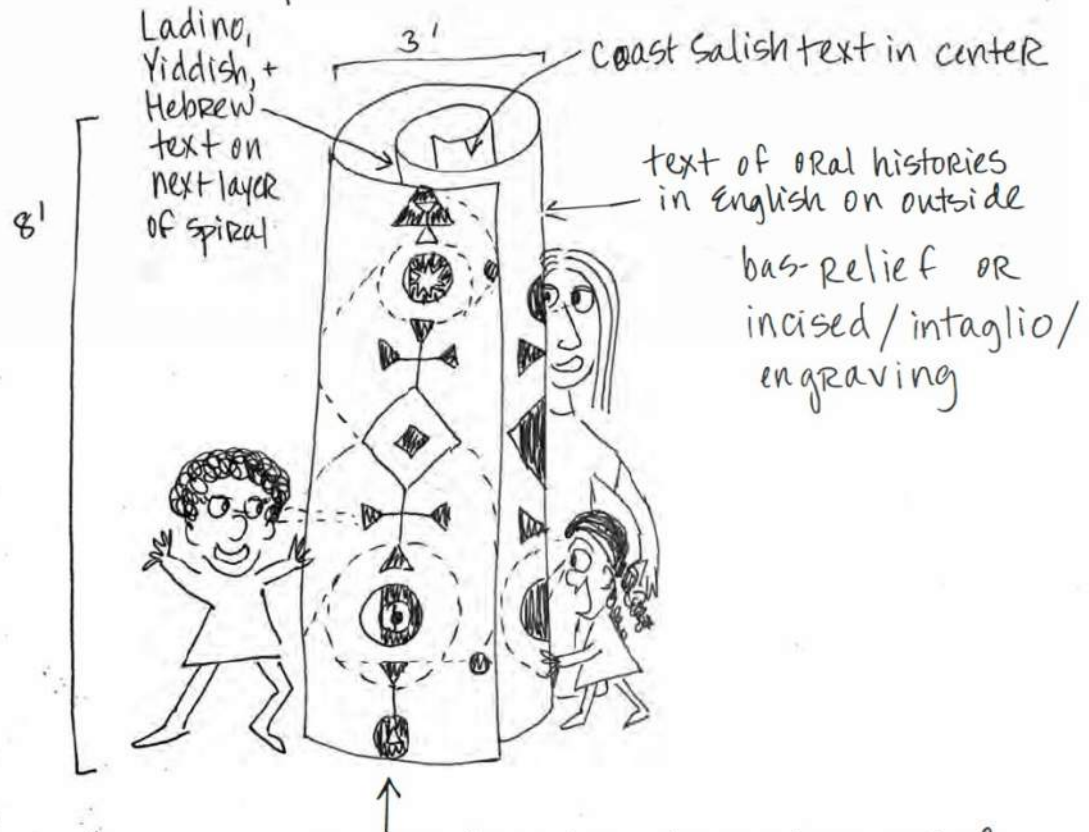
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SECURE
A
SITE

NO
PASSING





CORE SAMPLE:
LAYERS OF LIVING BEINGS



Ladino,
Yiddish, +
Hebrew
text on
next layer
of spiral

Coast Salish text in center

text of oral histories
in English on outside

bas-relief or
incised/intaglio/
engraving

↑
Abstract/Geometric engraved or Relief
Tree of Life ~~with~~ ^{with} geometric-shaped
cut-outs: lined up through all layers
- at all heights so all people
can peer through to
layers of text + history
to center