

# Palm Springs Public Arts Commission

Beautiful Shade:

January 2025

## #4

Cactus  
Jen Dwyer

Palm tree angled to  
maximize shade

Mirrored steel  
0' T x 0'W



To Whom This May Concern,

I am an artist specialized in public installations with a wealth of experience in creating diverse and innovative projects. With over four years of experience in the field of public art and a total of twelve years as a professional artist, I have successfully completed numerous projects for public parks, civic sites, and other public spaces. The range of my work includes architecturally integrated treatments, sculptural environments, and freestanding sculptures, all of which showcase my diverse use of materials and thoughtful approach to each project.

My approach to public art is centered around exploring the intricate relationship between the site, context, art, architecture, and need of the community. This project in particular really stood out to me as something I would be thrilled to create because of its focus on place. I grew up in Marin County and we visited our family friends in palm springs often. I have many fond memories there of it being such a beautiful warm place to escape to. I've always had an affection for place and community. I would be honored to design and oversee the implementation of one of my sculptures to create unique space for everyone to enjoy. As you can see in my portfolio (**Cactus**) I have seamlessly had my ceramic sculptures fabricated into stainless steel with a mirrored surface, which has proven to be a very aesthetically pleasing material and easily stands the test of time and require little to no maintenance for decades to come. In addition, my stainless steel sculpture would provide shade in one of the beautiful public parks in Palm Springs.

In addition, I'd like to share a little background as to how I began my idea process for the final version of the public art sculpture. First I engage in extensive community conversations and thorough research of the site to develop a contextual framework for my work. This process involves identifying historical, environmental, and cultural elements that can serve as unique identifiers for the community. By seeking out these connections, I aim to create a distinct sense of place through my art, specific to the area of the public art commission.

One notable example of my multi-disciplinary public art experience is my involvement in developing artwork for the Potato Creek Park as part of the Indiana Arts Commissioner Project in St. Joseph County in Indiana. I seamlessly integrated art into the visitor area at the park through outdoor sculptures. From conceptualization to the final design, I consistently delivered on time and provided installation drawings, detailed budgets, timelines, and maintenance schedules.

Lastly, with my expertise in working with various concepts, materials, techniques, and communities, I am confident in my ability to translate this experience into a public art sculpture that would be a wonderful addition to one of the beautiful public parks in Palm Springs. .

Sincerely,  
Jen Dwyer



Above is my proposal for the “Beautiful Shade” program. The large-scale public art installation in Palm Springs features a stunning mirrored steel abstract palm tree sculpture, designed to be both an artistic statement and a functional space for relaxation that provides lots of shade for visitors.

The reflective surface of the steel not only serves as a canvas for the surrounding environment but also creates an enchanting interplay of light. As sunlight moves across the sculpture throughout the day, it casts shimmering reflections of the park’s palms, flowers, and the ever-changing sky, making the sculpture a living part of the landscape. This dynamic interaction draws visitors in, inviting them to explore its reflective surfaces and engage with their surroundings in new ways.

Beneath the arms of the cactus, a spacious shaded area is thoughtfully designed to provide a comfortable retreat from the sun. The sculpture's architecture is strategically angled to maximize shade coverage, ensuring that visitors can find respite during the hottest parts of the day. Integrated seating, such as smooth stone benches or natural wood slats, is seamlessly incorporated into the design, encouraging people to gather, relax, and enjoy the cool space created by the sculpture.

The installation also features subtle lighting elements embedded within the structure, allowing it to glow softly at night, transforming the space into a magical gathering point after sunset. This mirrored steel cactus not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of the park but also serves as a vital community hub, promoting social interaction and contemplation in a serene, shaded environment.

## **Jen Dwyer**

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studio@jen-dwyer.com

### **Education**

**2019** MFA, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Minor Gender Studies

**2011** BFA, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

BA in Environmental Studies

Minor in Art History

### **Public Art Commissions + Grants**

**2019** Public Park + Historic Site Grant, Indiana Arts Commission, IN

Professional Development Grant, Workshop with Lauren Gallaspy

Professional Development Grant, University of Notre Dame, IN

**2018** Public Park + Historic Site Grant, Indiana Arts Commission, IN

Research Award, Material Grant, University of Notre Dame, IN

Nanovic Grant, Funded research trip to analyze 18thc. and 19thc. Porcelain at the Sèvres

Porcelain, University of Notre Dame

Full Scholarship, Pristine Porcelain, Taylor Robenalt, Penland School of Craft

Professional Development Grant, University of Notre Dame, IN

**2017** Public Park + Historic Site Grant, Indiana Arts Commission, IN

Professional Development Grant, University of Notre Dame, IN

**2014** Scholarship Recipient, Penland School of Crafts, Penland, NC

**2013** Scholarship Recipient, Penland School of Crafts, Penland, NC

### **Solo + Two Person Exhibitions**

**2023** *Playing with Fire*, Spring Break Art Fair, with artist Kate Rusek, curated by Marly Hammer and John Richey, NYC, NY

*Pure Bliss*, Jennifer Terzian Gallery, Litchfield, Ct

**2022** *Garden of Archetypes*, Solo Exhibition, Dinner Gallery, Chelsea, NY curated by Celine Mo

**2020** *Dreamers Delight*, Spring Break Art Show (Solo Booth), NYC, NY curated by Lauren Hirshfield

**2019** *World of Her Own*, MFA Thesis Exhibition, Snite Art Museum, IN

**2018** *Not For You, Bunny*, Solo Exhibition- Lucas Lucas Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

**2011** *Balancing gallery*, BFA Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

**2024** *These Boots are Made for Walking*, Room 57 Gallery, New York, NY

*Secret Garden of Protection*, Hahsimoto Contemporary, New York, NY

*Potluck*, Hashimoto Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

**2023** *Multiples*, Hashimoto Gallery, San Francisco, CA

*Liquidity*, Ki Smith Gallery, NYC, NY

*Lush*, Hashimoto Gallery, NYC, NY

*Inimitable*, Project Gallery V, NYC, NY  
*Potluck*, Hashimoto Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
**2022** *A Chair of Oneself*, Jeff Marfa, Marfa, TX, curated by Willy Somma  
*Lost Treasure*, Parlor Gallery, Asbury Park, NJ  
*Constructed Paradise*, Hashimoto Contemporary Gallery, NYC, NY  
*Lush*, Hashimoto Contemporary Gallery, NYC, NY, curated by Jennifer Rizzo  
*Moments in Reverie*, Group Exhibition, GeorgeTown College, Louisville, KY curated by Samantha Simpson  
*Half Baked*, Tchotchke Gallery, New York, NY, curated by Marlee Katz  
**2021** *Only If We Wish To*, Equity Gallery, Manhattan, NY  
*The Other Side of The Rainbow*, ArtPort Kingston, Kingston, NY  
*Who Really Cares?*, Samuel Dorsky Museum, New Paltz, NY  
*Magic Touch*, Group Show, Dinner Gallery, Chelsea, NY  
*Virtual Reality, with Gracelee Lawrence*, Houseworks Gallery, KY curated by Samantha Simpson  
**2020** *Art Miami Fair x Artsy*, Special Online Edition, AHA Gallery  
*All Out/ All In*, Maxon Mill Gallery, Wassaic, NY curated by Will Hutnick  
*Repose*, Gaa Gallery, Cape Cod, MA  
*Covid19 Diaries*, Lovaas Projects, München, Germany  
*Now More Than Ever*, Wassaic Projects, Wassaic, NY  
*Keep For Old Memories*, Young Space Gallery, co-curated by Kate Mothes and Celine Mo, online  
*Femmephoria*, School of Visual Arts, NYC, NY  
**2019** *Miami Context*, Aha Fine Art Gallery, NYC, NY  
*Investigating Reality*, Untitled Space, NYC, NY  
*Potluck*, Hashimoto Contemporary, San Francisco, CA  
*NCECA Juried Student Exhibition*, Soo Visual Arts Center, Minneapolis, MN (Potter Award)  
*Femme*, Juxtaposed Projects, New York, NY  
*World of Her Own*, curated by Anna Cone, Spring/ Break, NYC, NY  
*To Be One and Myself*, curated by Lauren Elise and Kat Ryals, Spring/ Break, NYC, NY  
*Spiritual Advisory*, curated by Sarah Potter and Caroline Larsen, Spring/ Break, NYC, NY  
**2018** *Small + Mighty*, La Bodega Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Speed Dating*, curated by Calli Moore, Peter's Candy Store, Brooklyn, NY  
*Contemporary Sculpture*, Untitled Space, NY  
*Current Residents*, Salem Art Works, Salem, NY  
*Midnight*, Paradise Palace Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Room XX*, Spring/Break Art Show, Manhattan, NY  
*Year of Resistance*, The Untitled Space, New York, NY  
**2017** *Con Artist Collective Exhibition*, Satellite Art Fair, Miami, FL  
*Shades of Gray*, Kunsthuis Gallery, Crayke, United Kingdom  
*Spa Princess: Guide To Escape*, The Sussex Contemporary Gallery, Ontario, Canada  
*What's Underneath*, Howl Magazine, New York, NY  
*She Inspires*, Untitled Space, New York, NY  
*Nasty Women Art Chicago*, Moonlight Studio, Chicago, IL

*The Personal Is Political*, Non Fiction Gallery, Savannah, GA  
*Uprise*, Untitled Space, Manhattan, NY  
**2016** *We Reject*, Slate Arts, Chicago, IL  
*Tell Me More*, Academic Gallery, Long Island City, NY  
*Natural/ Unnatural*, Square Dot Plus Studios, Gowanus, NY  
*South- West Brooklyn Exhibition*, Nars Foundation, Brooklyn, NY  
**2015** *Seeking Space*, Bushwick Open Studios, Active Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Telestrations*, Halyards: Gowanus Open Studios, Gowanus, NY  
*Brooklyn Art Space Winter Member Salon Pop-up*, Trestle Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Celestial Sunset*, Nars foundation, Brooklyn, NY  
*Working Artists*, Academic Gallery, Long Island City, NY  
**2014** *Festina Lente*, Con Artist Collective & Create, Art Basel, Miami, FL  
*Surfacing*, Gowanus Open Studios, Trestle Projects, Brooklyn, NY  
*Submerged*, GSS Installation, Governors Island Art Fair, NY  
*Sun Tilt*, Stylus Salon: Ghost Gallery, Seattle, WA  
*The New Current*, Red Current Gallery, Seattle, WA  
*Endless Exhibition*, Con Artist Gallery, Manhattan, NY  
**2013** *Winter Art Show*, Recession Art Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Acid Cinema Presents: The Future*, Brooklyn Fire Proof, Brooklyn, NY  
*Fluctuations*, Recession Art Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Fall Member Salon*, Trestle Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Winter Season Grand Salon Show*, Greenpoint Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Realist Exhibition*, West Park Art Gallery, Manhattan, NY  
**2012** *Wandering Home*, Sapphire Gallery, Manhattan, NY  
*Annual Artists Show*, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA  
*Open Walls*, Black Box Gallery, Portland, OR  
*Lost and Found*, Cakespy Gallery, Seattle, WA 4N5 Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
**2011** *Juried Show*, Jacob Lawrence Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, WA  
*Balancing Act*, Thesis exhibition, CMA Gallery, University of Washington,

### **Residencies + Workshops**

**2024** Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, Nebraska City, NE  
Jentel Artist Residency, Banner, WY  
Mack Foundation Residency, Brooklyn, NY  
**2021-22** Museum of Art and Design Studio Residency, NY  
**2019-20** Wassaic Artist Fellowship, Wassaic, NY  
**2018** Studio Artist Residency, Salem Art Works, Salem, NY  
**2017** Artist in Resident, Pottery Workshop, Jingdezhen, China  
Learning to Look Workshop, Christina West, Alfred University, NY  
**2016** Artist in Resident, Pocosin Arts, Columbia, NC  
**2014** Scholarship Recipient for Artist Residency, Contemporary Artist Center, Troy, NY  
**2013** Recent Graduate Residency, Brooklyn Art Space, Brooklyn, NY  
**2012** Artist in Resident, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA

## **Publications**

**2022** *Jen Dwyer Finds The Secret Garden of Individuality*, White Wall Magazine, interview by Katy Donoghue, 2022  
Interview with Ceramicist Jen Dwyer, Nina Ninu, interview by Leila Antakly, 2022  
*Five New York Shows explore the pandemic's effects two years after the city's first Covid-19 lockdown*, Jen Dwyer: Garden of Archetypes, the Art NewsPaper, 2022  
*Editors' Picks: 15 Events for Your Art Calendar, From a Fascinating Fernanda Laguna Survey to the Badass Art Women Awards, Plus openings for Awol Erizku at Gagolian and Jen Dwyer at Dinner Gallery.*, Art Net, 2022  
Jen Dwyer: Garden of Archetypes, Ceramics Now, 2022  
**2021** *Magic Touch Co-curated by Jen Dwyer*, Art Plugged Magazine, 2021  
*The Arbitrary Assignment of Value*, Matron and Mistresses, interview by Lizzy Vartanian  
*Create Magazine*, Reunion Issue, 2021  
Arts to Hearts Podcast, Creating Inspiring Functional and Engaging Art Using Clay, Interview by Charuka Arora  
*Rituals & Reflections with Ceramic Artist and Painter Jen Dwyer*, Art Spiel, by Alicia Puig Magic Touch Co-curated by Jen Dwyer, Art- Plugged Magazine,  
**2020** *Jen Dwyer Is Challenging Gender Stereotypes Through Rococo Ceramics*, Art Gorgeous, Interview by Lizzy Vartanian  
*11 Acclaimed Artists Offer Strategies for Getting the Most Out of Working From Home, Whether From Your Studio or Bedroom Office*, by Art Net News, March 30, 2020  
*Studio Visit: Ceramicist Jen Dwyer*, Cool Hunting Interview by David Graver, March 18, 2020  
*Here Are 9 of the Most Wildly Creative Ways That Artists Transformed an Office Building Into an Art Wonderland for SPRING/BREAK 2020*, Art Net, Sarah Cascone  
*The Zealous Set with Jen Dwyer*, Art Zealous, 2020  
*In conversation with ceramic artist jen dwyer*, Neubau Eyewear Interview  
**2019** Friend of the Artist Issue 10, 2019  
**2018** *Ceramist Jen Dwyer Uses 18th-Century Decorative Arts to Create Feminist Work That Challenges Artistic Hierarchies*, Architectural Digest, by Hadley Keller  
Meet Jen Dwyer: The Feminist Artist Exploring Political Thought Through Ceramics, Blended Magazine, by Lilian Joans  
*Jen Dwyer and Ceramics As Resistance*, Interview: The Femme Art Review  
*The Untitled Space Gallery Checks in with Nasty Women One Year Later*, Vogue, 2018  
*One Year of Resistance*, The Guardian, 2018  
Curated by Girls by Laetitia Dubeau  
*See Trump's Presidency so Far*, Widewalls, 2018  
*Create Magazine*, January, 2018  
*Resistance Exhibition Curbs Trump's Enthusiasm*, Featured Art, Flaunt Magazine, 2018  
*What This Artist Learned From Making Feminist Ceramics And Pregnancy Test Pipes*, Forbes Magazine, Interview by Jane Claire Hervey  
**2017** *Watermelon Millennial Escapism Via Surrealism Ceramics*, Art Gorgeous Interview, Featured Artist, Wotisart, sixth issue, 2017  
*Jen Dwyer Tackles Trumpian Escapism with Abstract Ceramics*, Bullett Magazine, 2017  
*Get to know the Legendary Women of the She Inspires Art Exhibition*, Untitled Magazine 2017  
*14 Inspiring Artworks Celebrating Powerful Women*, Bust Magazine, 2017

*Nasty Woman Tiles*, Pink Things Magazine, 2017  
*The Growing Movement of Anti-Trump Art*, News Week, Feature, 2017

*The feminist art show challenging trump with voodoo and porcelain pussy sculpture*, i-D Magazine,

*Jen Dwyer: Representing Sexual Subjugation Through Sculpture*, Howl Magazine (interview), 2017

60 Contemporary Artists Made Works to Honor Inspiring Women, Vice, 2017

**2016** *The New Age of Ceramics*, First Edition: Gingko Press, Inc, Sept 2016, by Hannah Stouffer

**2014** *Design News*, New York Magazine, by Trupti Rami, 2014

*Seeking Space Closing Reception at The Active Space*, Art Fuse, by Nicole Durbin

**2013** *Featured Artist*, Vile Magazine, November Issue, 2013

### **Artist Talk, Lecture & Panel Discussion**

**2022** Artist Talk, GeorgeTown College, Louisville, KY

Artist Talk, Hudson Valley Moca, Peekskill, NY

**2021** *Adornment & Art Panel Discussion*, Throughlines Series, Museum of Art & Design

Artist Talk, Museum of Art and Design, NY

Artist Talk, House Guest Gallery, Louisville, KY

**2020** Visiting Artist Lecture, Kenya College, Ohio

**2019** Visiting Artist Lecture, Kenya College, Ohio

Artist Talk, Wassaic Projects, Wassaic, NY

**2017** Artist in Residence Lecture, Pottery Workshop, Jingdezhen, China

**2016** Incoming graduate Art Talk, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Artist Talk, Pocosin Arts, Columbia, NC



**Belinda**, 2023, Ceramics, Glaze, Underglaze, and luster, 18 x 12.75 x 8.25 inches, Placed in a Private Collection, (Install meth

Environmental art has become an increasingly important form of artistic expression in recent years. Artists use their creative talents to raise awareness about environmental issues and promote sustainable practices. I aim to do this in my practice, through my plant lady sculptures, such as *Belinda*. I combine the beauty of nature with the art of sculpture, creating thought-provoking artworks that highlight the importance of environmental conservation.



**Red and Blue Plant**, 2023, Ceramics, Glaze, Underglaze, and luster, 36 x 24.5 x 15.75 inches, Placed in a Private Collection

As climate change and environmental degradation become increasingly pressing issues, I find making environmental art can provoke thought and inspiring action towards the importance of sustainable practices. Ultimately, environmental art seeks not only to create beauty but also to instigate change, urging both individuals and communities to rethink their relationship with the earth.



**Judy**, 2023, Ceramics, Glaze, Underglaze, and luster, 28 x 15.5 x 15.5 inches, Placed in a Private Collection

Environmental art has become an increasingly important form of artistic expression in recent years. Artists use their creative talents to raise awareness about environmental issues and promote sustainable practices. I aim to do this in my practice, through my plant lady sculptures, such as *Belinda*. I combine the beauty of nature with the art of sculpture, creating thought-provoking artworks that highlight the importance of environmental conservation.



**Luna**, 2024, Ceramics, Glaze, Underglaze, and luster, 22 x 21.25 x 15.5 inches, Placed in a Private Collection

This whimsical plant lady is an example of one of my ceramic sculptures that could be easily fabricated into public art.



**Water Can**, 2023, Ceramics, Glaze, Underglaze, acrylic and luster  
28 x 21.25 x 15.5 inches, Placed in a Private Collection

The personified watering can I sculpted represents the empowering concept of ecofeminism. As a symbol of the harmonious relationship between nature and women, this artwork embodies the idea that both should be respected and nurtured.



**Evening Rituals**, 2023

Ceramics, Glaze, Underglaze, and luster  
28 x 21.25 x 15.5 inches

This sculpture installed at Room 57 Gallery in NYC, explores themes related to gender, identity and empowerment. This sculpture depicts a surreal arm of a female figure and a shoe that challenges and celebrates different representations of women. This piece is inspired by feminist artists like Judy Chicago, with her iconic "The Dinner Party," and Louise Bourgeois, known for her organic and emotional works, have made significant contributions to this genre.



**Her Morning Rituals**, 2023, Placed in a Private Collection, Ceramics, Glaze, Underglaze, and luster, 28 x 21.25 x 15.5 inches

This sculpture was created to express lived experiences of women's experiences, identities, and to challenge traditional notions of femininity and the portrayal of women. In my sculptures I address theses of empowerment, body politics, and social justice. The interactive nature of sculpture allows my audiences to engage with the artwork physically and emotionally, fostering a deeper understanding of the feminist issues being addressed. My sculptures serve as a reflection of the past but also as a catalyst for ongoing dialogue about gender, power, and the role of women in society today.



**Lost In Translation**, 2023, Placed in a Private Collection, Ceramics, Glaze, Underglaze, and luster, 32 x 29.25 x 4.5 inches

This phone sculpture adorned with vibrant colors, serves as a commentary on communication and the often-overlooked voices of women throughout history. The phone, a symbol of connectivity, is designed to evoke thoughts on how technology has evolved and its impact on gender dynamics. Each detail of the sculpture reflects the stories of women who have shaped conversations, both literally and figuratively, challenging societal norms. The piece invites viewers to consider the importance of women's voices in the dialogue surrounding technology and culture. It stands as a testament to the idea that, just like the phone, women's contributions are essential in bridging gaps and fostering understanding in our interconnected world. As a whole, this

sculpture not only celebrates the art of ceramics but also serves as a platform for discussing the intersection of gender, technology, and communication, encouraging a deeper reflection on how we engage with one another in the modern age.



**Baseball Cap**, 2023, Placed in a Private Collection  
Ceramics, Glaze, Underglaze, and luster, 20 x 16.25 x 5.5 inches  
This hat sculpture is more than just an art piece; it is a symbol of community, creativity and expression.



**Cactus**, 2024, Mirror-polished stainless steel, 48 x 41.25 x 31.5 inches, Installation method: Anchoring. This sculpture was anchored into a concrete pad.

My goal in the creation of this sculpture, Cactus, was to carry a message about environmental awareness and conservation. They remind us of the delicate balance of ecosystems and the need to protect these unique habitats for future generations. As people gather around these artworks, they create a sense of belonging and connection, fostering community engagement and appreciation for the arts.

## ATTACHMENT B: QUOTE/PRICING SCHEDULE

1. Quote your best price, including freight, for each item. All blanks in the Quote/Pricing Schedule **MUST** be completed. In case of a discrepancy between the Unit Price and the Total, the Unit Price shall be considered correct. Contractor will be required to meet the City's Insurance Requirements prior to executing the work.
2. In submitting this quote, the vendor certifies that the prices in this quote have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement with any other vendor or competitor, for the purpose of restricting competition with regard to prices.
3. If shipping is required shipping shall be quoted FOB Destination, Freight Included.
4. **DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE:** 40% of contract amount will be disbursed upon contract execution, 40% of contract amount will be disbursed after all required permits have been issued and the artwork is fifty percent complete (to be verified with photographs), 20% of contract amount will be disbursed upon completion, installation, and acceptance by City).

DESCRIPTION	ITEM	QTY	UNIT PRICE	PRICE TOTAL
Materials	steel			8,000
Fabrication	steel			6,500
Exterior Finishes	mirrored steel			1,500
Transportation				1,000
Installation				1,000
Structural Engineer				1,000
Insurance				1,000
Artist Fee				5,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>25,00</b>