Works in Public (W iP), formerly known as Model to Monument (M2M), is a professional development program for League students who will accomplish several goals by creating site-specific large-scale public sculptures within the context of one-year and two-year programs at the Art Students League of New York. The program was founded in 2010 by the master sculptor, Greg Wyatt, in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Starting in 2022, Works in Public was re-conceived under the new leadership of Haksul Lee and Natsuki Takauji, alumni and former consultants of the program, and instructors at The Art Students League of New York. To date, forty-six artists have completed this program and had their sculptures installed in year-long public exhibitions at Riverside Park South and Riverside Park at 145th Street. The program is open to advanced League artists in any discipline.

THE W iP LEARNING EXPERIENCE

W iP PRACTICUM will engage a team of artist-participants in every phase of the conception, creation, and installation of site-specific sculptures, providing them with direct work experience in the physical materials and processes used to create original works of public art. W iP students will each receive a stipend and a scholarship for a full-time class for the duration.

Two-year course: Year One will be dedicated to seminars on the history and contemporary understanding of public sculpture, the study of sculptural concepts, proposal and presentation methods, site analysis, fabrication processes, engineering, and studio visits. This year culminates in the creation of a proposal for a full-scale public artwork. Year Two will be dedicated to the fabrication process, culminating in the installation of the artwork in Riverside Park for a one-year public exhibition.

The course will offer weekly seminars, as well as guest lecturers, and critics. It will include visits to public art sites and artists’ studios, discussions, recommended readings, assignments, and consultations. There will be additional meetings as needed.

One-year intensive course: The same curriculum as the two-year course will be offered as a year-long program, with emphasis on developing the proposed project through to fabrication, culminating in the installation of the artwork in Riverside Park South for a one-year public exhibition. The course will offer weekly seminars.

Because of the rigorous nature of the program, students must be willing and able, should they be selected, to make a substantial time commitment. Each individual artist works independently to fulfill program requirements.

SELECTION OF ARTIST PARTICIPANTS: Artists in all disciplines are eligible to apply. Sculptors and 3D installation artists are preferred. Painters and other 2-dimensional artists will be considered when they prove their ability to think and work in 3 dimensions through their portfolios and proposals.

Two artists will be selected for the one-year program based on their portfolios and proposals. Three artists will be selected for the two-year program based on their portfolios and proposals. The selection committee will be composed of League and NYC Parks administrators, along with invited gallerists and/or artists.

More specific details are addressed in the following Frequently Asked Questions section. Applicants must read this section.

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W iP Prospectus / May 2023
WORKS IN PUBLIC: Frequently Asked Questions

● What does “attending” The League mean? What is the commitment if I am selected?
  ○ WiP is a professional development program for students. If accepted into the program, you will be required to take classes at The League.
  ○ This is an in-person program. You must be located in or able to commute to New York City for regular weekly meetings and other events, as well as to attend classes.
  ○ You will be awarded a tuition scholarship to attend either full-time class (meeting five-days/week) or part-time classes during the program.
  ○ Required attendance at weekly meetings, which typically last four hours.
  ○ You must meet the deadlines for assignments and maquette-making.

● What is the budget for a proposed project?
  ○ $20,000 per project for materials and fabrication, excluding transportation and installation.

● Where will sculptures be fabricated?
  ○ Fabricators are selected based on the unique requirements of each proposal.

● How do I decide between 1-year and 2-year programs?
  ○ You don’t need to decide unless you prefer to participate in one or the other. The selection committee will make decisions and recommendations based on your application if you choose to apply for both.

● Do I need to be experienced in sculpture or public sculpture?
  ○ You need to have some experience working in 3D, but do not need to have any experience in public sculpture.
  ○ You don’t need to have the capability to create the actual sculpture on your own. However, to ensure the success of your proposed sculpture, in the course of the program you will have to acquire a basic understanding of fabrication processes on a large scale and more in-depth, specific knowledge that your proposed sculpture may require.

● Do I have to make a physical model (maquette) of the proposal?
  ○ Yes. You will be required to submit photographs of your maquette as part of the application portfolio. Graphic animation or representation of your proposal is optional. Your maquette should approximate as accurately as possible the actual materials or the appearance of your proposed sculpture. As a general guide for scale, the maquette may be up to 12 inches in its longest dimension and/or fit within a 12 inch square base.

● What are the criteria for a successful public art proposal?
  ○ The artistic merit of your portfolio is as important as your proposal. Artistic maturity of WiP participants is crucial. We also want to see how your general art practice (as presented in your portfolio) is connected to your proposal. This doesn’t mean that you must propose only ideas similar to your portfolio. What is sought in this proposal are visual, conceptual, and/or technical relationships to your ongoing art practice.
  ○ Generally speaking, in addition to the unique artistic vision, successful public art is often site-specific, addressing the spirit of the time (social or political climate, and/or holding public serviceability in visual enhancement, education, or community engagement).
● Do I have to create the sculpture exactly as proposed if I am selected?
  ○ No, you can further develop and modify the proposal over the course of the program. However, we don’t recommend drastic changes during the one-year program.

● What will happen to the installed sculptures after the exhibition ends?
  ○ All the final fabricated sculptures will belong to The Art Students League. Every effort will be made to place the sculptures in permanent locations following the exhibition as The League develops relationships with other municipalities.
  ○ The program requires fabrication and exhibition of a presentation maquette at the mid-point of the program that represents your project at scale. This maquette will become the property of the Art Students League for archival purposes.

● What will I gain from this program?
  ○ WiP is a professional development program. You will gain an understanding of the process of applying for public sculpture commissions.
  ○ Fabrication and exhibition of your proposed sculpture in Riverside Park and the potential for permanent placement following the exhibition.
  ○ A scholarship to attend classes at The League and a stipend during the program.
  ○ An understanding of the difference between studio and public art, the examples of successful public art, the role and possibility of public art, as well as public safety and its technical challenges and solutions.
  ○ Group discussions and critiques, lectures, and consultations moderated by the program managers.
  ○ Interactions with guest lecturers and critics, curators, and renowned artists.
  ○ Exposure in the media and the NYC community. In the past, the program was featured in NY Times, WSJ, Daily News, DNA info, and other major TV news programs.

● What is the selection process and composition of the jury?
  ○ The selection panel will include representatives from the Parks Department, the League, and invited professionals established in the field of sculpture.
  ○ Artists are chosen based on the following criteria:
    □ Artistic Merit & Creativity:
      ✓ Originality of concept and sense of aesthetic vision
      ✓ Quality of artwork and demonstrated artistic skill
    □ Proposal Development & Feasibility:
      ✓ Demonstrated grasp of how the proposal can be fabricated
      ✓ Demonstrated clear ideation from concept to maquette
    □ Public Engagement:
      ✓ Demonstrated understanding of the installation site and how the project will resonate with the local community