

Artist Grounded in Community and Land

A Native New Mexican, Paula Castillo attended Yale University after high school and then worked in an electronics factory where she began to forge her early career in contemporary sculpture. The interactions between the physical and cultural landscape motivate Castillo's work. She writes, "Human geography is complex and malleable with its hundreds of intersections between the physical and cultural landscape. The human-made microcosms combined with the expansive natural environment have been the catalyst for my interest in the systems and spaces we inhabit." Castillo, an acclaimed contemporary sculptor, holds an MFA in 3D Studio and Contemporary Theory from the University of New Mexico and has produced a range of work from small-scale, intimate sculpture to large-scale public work. She has exhibited her work nationally and internationally and has won numerous significant public art commissions including the public work for the New Mexico History Museum in downtown Santa Fe, New Mexico and a large-scale public sculpture in South Korea. Castillo has received grants from UNESCO, SITE Santa Fe, and Los Alamos National Labs to develop cutting-edge contemporary art that encapsulates both critical place-making and environmental solutions.

Sculptor with Education in Literature, Psychology, Critical Literacy and Contemporary Theory

- 2013 M.F.A. **University of New Mexico**, 3D Studio and Contemporary Theory, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2008 M.A.E. **College of Santa Fe**, Critical Literacy, Distinction Honors, Santa Fe, NM.
- 1985 B.S.E **University of New Mexico**, special focus on Cognitive Psychology, Albuquerque, NM.
- '79- '81 **Yale University**, two-year focus on Religious Studies and English Literature, New Haven, CT.

Artist as Leader in Community

- Through the Flower, curator. Invited by Judy Chicago to establish curatorial and lecture series reflecting on the value, diversity, and nuance of contemporary rural female culture in New Mexico. 2017-current
- Moth Field, *Wiya eh kodi ani* (Tewa for "Putting things right again") at IAIA. Invited by Dr. Estevan Rael-Gálvez and IAIA Curator Manuela Well-Off-Man to create statewide community art project advancing the conversation on the 2019-2020

legacy of Spanish Colonialism in the context of Native cultures as it relates to the now discontinued Entrada celebration in Santa Fe.

- Heavy Metal. National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC. One of ten female contemporary metal artists working internationally selected to be honored in special exhibition at the Created in-house partnership with fabricators CRMC, Inc. in Belen, New Mexico with goal to develop dynamic award winning large -scale community based public work. 2018
- Head of Visual Arts Department, Santa Fe Preparatory, nationally ranked college preparatory school in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Led school in bringing arts curriculum umbrella to larger humanities and science based college preparatory education. Specialty: community and land-based arts. 2012-2017
- Developed cutting-edge land art to resolve issues of erosion, undercutting and interactions of humans and geography in New Mexico with planned siting of sculpture in local arroyos. Funding from SITE Santa Fe, Los Alamos National Labs, and Northern New Mexico College for research, design and siting phase. 2007-current

Community and Environmental Research Driven Projects

- Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI) Equal Justice Residency Research Grant winner for primary and secondary research in both literal and symbolic aspects of arroyos in Rio Arriba County to experiment with ideas related to assets and access for residents of this region in the context of New Mexico and the larger Southwest region. 2018
- Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Research Grant winner for hydrology and materials science research to aid in final design phase for land art intervention. 2018
- SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM, SPREAD Community Grant winner for development of regional art interventions for 2017

environmental complications surrounding New Mexico Arroyos.

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Seoul, Korea. Grant to develop, fabricate and install public sculpture commemorating U.S. and Korean citizens during Korean War. 2013
- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Research Fellowship. Grant to research contemporary public artists working with themes of community and environment 2009
- National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Fellowship. Grant to research art's ability to interface with hydrological environmental concerns. 2008

Community and Environment Oriented Public Artist with Ten Years of Public Art Experience

- *Slope of the Sky*, National Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque, NM. 2019
- *Borregita*, Private Commission, Washington, DC. 2017
- *small lake*, El Paseo, New Mexico Art in Public Places, Taos, NM. 2015
- *Salce Park*, Institute of Biodiversity, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY. 2014
- *Meet Me Here*, Barrio la Cañada, City of Santa Fe, Public Art Program, Santa Fe, NM. 2013
- *blue flower*, UNESCO, Icheon, Korea. 2013
- *100 miles of numbered mountain*, University of New Mexico, School of Engineering, New Mexico Arts in Public Places, Albuquerque, NM. 2012
- *the forest*, City of Albuquerque, Public Art Program in collaboration with ISEA, Albuquerque Museum, Albuquerque, NM. 2012
- *float*, Silver Gardens, City of Albuquerque, Public Art Program, Albuquerque, NM. Finalist 2011
- *fallen petals*, Berndt Hall Reconstruction, Ft. Lewis College, 2010

Colorado Council on the Arts, Durango, CO

- *My Home Over There*, New Mexico Museum of History-Palace of the Governors, New Mexico Art in Public Places, Santa Fe, NM. 2009
- *Aquila*, Eagle Park, New Mexico Art in Public Places, Belen, NM. 2007

Acclaimed Gallery Artist Solo Exhibitions

- *That Mountain Over There*, Gallery Fritz, Santa Fe, NM. 2019
- *The night in thirds*, William Siegal Gallery, Santa Fe, NM. 2017
- *intimate ideas in the bright*, William Siegal Gallery, Santa Fe, NM. 2015
- *in the middle of things*, SCA Contemporary, Albuquerque, NM. 2014
- *there is no infinity*, William Siegal Gallery, Santa Fe, NM. 2013
- *the forest (and the tunnel)*, SCA Contemporary, Albuquerque, NM. 2011
- *grey heart/green world*, William Siegal Gallery, Santa Fe, NM. 2010
- *the boat (downstream)*, William Siegal Gallery, Santa Fe, NM. 2009
- *Approaching Distance*, William Siegal Gallery, Santa Fe, NM. 2008
- *The Jade Staircase*, College of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM. 2007
- *Sharing the Road Home*, Thomas McCormick Gallery, Chicago, IL. 2006
- *Things You Can't See Moving (are alive)*, Karan Ruhlen Gallery, Santa Fe, NM. 2005
- *Hábito*, Karan Ruhlen Gallery, Santa Fe, NM. 2003
- *Flower Dream*, St. John's College, Art Gallery, Santa Fe, NM. 2003
- *Borrowed Tongues*, Karan Ruhlen Gallery, Santa Fe, NM. 2001