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## **MURAL ARTS PROGRAM PRESENTS *PASSING THROUGH*, A CITY-WIDE MURAL PROJECT BY MURALIST MEG SALIGMAN**

**Passing Through** Philadelphia is the Mural Arts Program's groundbreaking interactive public art project designed by renowned muralist Meg Saligman. **Passing Through** combines found text and fine art. The centerpiece of the project is a 5,000 sq. ft. mural on the eastbound side of the Schuylkill Expressway at the Girard Avenue Bridge. Figures bound out of trompe l'oeil signage directing drivers to Central Philly, where they can begin the treasure hunt. Nineteen satellite murals are hidden throughout the city. Murals are site-specific and reflect the history and people through images and sound bites recorded at each site. All murals display the **Passing Through** logo, which resembles an Interstate sign. Pay attention to the signs. Look for the art.

"We want to project a sense of a living work of art, as though viewers are passing through the life of the neighborhood," explains muralist Meg Saligman. "With the **Passing Through** murals scattered throughout the city, we hope to create a treasure hunt."

For the first time since its inception 20 years ago the Mural Arts Program is using the internet to document the process of **Passing Through** as murals pop up throughout the city. Take the scenic route – <http://www.passingthrough.org>. "**Passing Through** is a pioneering project for the Mural Arts Program, especially meaningful in our twentieth anniversary year," says Jane Golden, Director of the Mural Arts Program. "Although there are a number of mural series throughout the city loosely connected by theme, artist or sponsor, **Passing Through** is Mural Arts Program's first truly citywide project."

**Passing Through** murals are located in Fishtown, Rittenhouse Square, the Italian Market, North Philadelphia, Penn's Landing, Strawberry Mansion, Queen Village,

Fairhill, Northern Liberties, Old City, Port Richmond, and on South Street, Girard Avenue, and Columbus Boulevard.

The dedication of the entire **Passing Through** project will take place on Kelly Drive, north of the Girard Avenue Bridge mural on Friday, October 29 at 4:00 PM during Mural Arts Month.

**Meg Saligman** created the Common Threads mural at Broad and Spring Garden, Philadelphia's largest mural, and has worked on several other major murals for the Mural Arts Program as well as a mural on the wall of a theater in Mexico City. Her mural in Shreveport, Louisiana is the largest publicly funded mural in the United States and involved over 2500 community participants. Saligman is the recipient of numerous awards, including several Pennsylvania Council for the Arts and National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships and the Leeway Foundation Award for Excellence, and was a Pew Charitable Trust Disciplinary Finalist in Painting.

The Mural Arts Program is a public art program that works in partnership with community residents, grassroots organizations, government agencies, educational institutions, corporations and philanthropies to design and create murals of enduring value while actively engaging youth in the process. Since its inception in 1984, the Mural Arts Program has completed more than 2,400 indoor and outdoor murals through Philadelphia - more murals than any other public art program in the nation. This effort has brought art to the city scape, turning graffiti-scarred walls into scenic views, portraits of community heroes, and abstract creations.

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