



# SHERYL BENTLEY

## *The World Perceived Through Art*

ART / DESIGN / PUBLIC ART

### ARTIST STATEMENT

I love to infuse symbolic storytelling into my artwork to depict a place familiar yet dreamy. It is in this place where I often feel I “touch” the most people with my work. It is a magic area, a place a viewer recognizes as comfortably familiar, yet where there is an underlying whisper that speaks of dreams and possibilities.

### PUBLIC ART

**2018- “Waterfall”** New Hampshire Correctional Facility for Women.  
42 Perimeter Rd., Concord NH

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, Percent for Art Program

**2011-2013- “Fish of Hampton, NH”, “Shellfish of Hampton, NH”,  
“Plants of Hampton, NH”, “Birds of Hampton, NH”**

Hampton Beach State Park

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, Percent for Art Program

### EXPERIENCE

**03/01/2012- Present Contractor at Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NH**

Lead Artist / Designer- Serving as director of art department at the theme park. Assistant to park owner in creative project development and management. Murals, signs, themed environments conceptual design and renderings, illustrations, model building, sculpture, foam carving. Vendor and contractor relations. Managing teams of artists and painters. Projects include but not limited to:

- 2020 / 2019 Assisted in the historic main fountain rehabilitation in conjunction with designing environment for new Venetian Carousel in the shared space.
- 2019 Designed sets for the successful “Twisted Circus” show, a retro style, steampunk style, freak show. Sets were installed in the historic Dancehall theater as well as new construction of an outside vignette stage.

### CONTACT

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### EDUCATION

BFA

Montserrat College of Art

Beverly, MA

Maryland Institute

College of Art

Baltimore, MD

### ORGANIZATIONS

New Hampshire Made

Woman’s Caucus for Art, NH

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## EXPERIENCE *Cont.*

- 2018-2019 Essential duties in the design and project management of successful award winning expansion of water park themed environment. Increased park notoriety and attendance.
- 2017 Assisted in the design and development of the relocation of the “Train Station”, maintaining the historic lakeside cottage architecture.
- 2017 Assisted in the design of an outdoor bar for the “Portofino Restaurant”. Based on classic architecture, created a faux stone arch out of carved foam for the facade of the bar. Increased beverage sales.
- 2016 Assisted in the design and development of a new water ride themed environment “New Hampshire River Explorer”. Conceptualized an authentic NH pioneer environment through the use of 11 set designs and landscaping.
- 2014 - 2015 Created a themed garden / farm environment for young children to enjoy the onsite vegetable garden, a petting zoo, and musical entertainment. Projects included fabricating gigantic hay sculptures built to represent mythological creatures, an 11’ pumpkin ‘house’ carved from foam blocks for story time, and a series of flower people constructed with florescent Lexan petal “crowns” which captured light, casting DayGlo shadows on the ground to skip through.

- **01/1998- Present Founder / Owner at A Brush with Life, Freelance Artist**

Offering residential and commercial clients with freelance art services such as murals, custom tile murals, illustrations and public art. Completed many projects for some of New Hampshire’ top businesses including:

- The Common Man Family of Restaurants- Plymouth, Ashland, New Hampton, Meredith, Merrimack, Windham, Portsmouth (closed) locations. Completed many murals. Illustrations for House Brand beer and wine labels and ‘to go’ food packaging, sign and window painting.
- All American Assisted Living, Kingston, NH. Painted doorways in the memory care wing. The murals were themed with subject matter that was used to spark conversation and memories between caregivers and residents.
- Children’s Dentistry of NH, Lincoln, NH. Themed six rooms with floor to ceiling colorful murals of scenic new Hampshire spots found in the White Mountains.
- Portsmouth Hospital, Portsmouth, NH. Painted a wall in an emergency room meant for children. The mural incorporates historic sites of Portsmouth as well as cute animals and balloons.
- Catholic Medical Center, Manchester, NH. Painted giant sized pink ribbons on the exterior windows of the breast cancer wing for public awareness.
- Educare Daycare, Goffstown NH. Kindertree Learning Center, Manchester, NH. St. Peter’s Home Daycare, Manchester, NH. Children’s murals to enliven the educational spaces.

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**REFERENCES**

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- Ray Captell, Owner, Canobie Lake park  
85 N. Policy St. Salem, NH 03079  
(603) 893-3506  
rcaptell@aol.com
- Brooke Farr, Maintenance and Facilities Department Head,  
Canobie Lake Park, 85 N. Policy St. Salem, NH 03079  
(603) 490-3609  
bfarr@canobelake.com
- Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer, New Hampshire State Council on  
the Arts 19 Pillsbury St. First Floor, Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 271-7926  
Cassandra.Mason@dncr.nh.gov
- Diane Downing, Vice President, Common Man Family of Restaurants,  
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