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THRESHOLD BY MARK REIGELMAN | PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW KEPINSKI

[LINK TO PROJECT DOCUMENTATION](#)

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

TEMPORARY ARTWORK IN DOWNTOWN NEW BEDFORD RECALLS THE COMMUNITY'S EXTRAORDINARY HISTORY AND OPENS A DOORWAY TO THE FUTURE.

Threshold, by NYC artist Mark Reigelman, is a public artwork celebrating the principles of egalitarianism and community-building that have been integral to the history of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Inspired by the Religious Society of Friends who inhabited the city in the late 17th century, as well as the aesthetic of New England's archetypal colonial doorways, the artwork beckons viewers toward its partially opened door, shining down on Custom House Square.

Threshold draws on the unique architecture of the federal doorway of the oldest building in Central New Bedford's Abolition Row Historic District that has been associated with concealing self-emancipated people. The historical address additionally marks the first meetinghouse of the Society of Friends, dating back to 1785. Threshold's double-sided door references the community's diverse history, with its blue façade facing the Wharf and rising sun as a nod to the city's fishing roots, while its massive arched transom window is tiled together with colorful mirrored pieces, capturing the various identities and cultures that have made up New Bedford. A suspended 8-pointed star references a hugely influential New England quilting pattern, activating the static sculpture with mirrored surfaces that encourage visitors to reflect and contemplate in and around the portal.

Constructed mainly of steel and wood, the 18' tall sculpture also includes colored mirrored acrylic incorporated into the facade, creating a reflective sheen and unique lighting effect. The colorful mirrored design continues as tiled patterns within the polycarbonate transom window above the doorway.

Threshold pays homage to New Bedford's history as a major whaling port, as well as its historical role in abolitionism and the Underground Railroad. With its massive ornate door, the artwork seeks to promote principles of openness and create a welcoming space, inviting locals and visitors to cross its threshold.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mark Reigelman's site-specific installations deal in the remarkable. Whether it be the materials he uses, their head-turning scale or their placement in public spaces, his works marry wit, context, and the element of surprise. His approach re-evaluates the everyday, reinvigorates public space, and challenges typical urban conditions. Emphasizing research and exploration, his diverse body of work is poised between abstraction and literal representation, which he meticulously integrates into civic spaces.

Mark Reigelman has exhibited work in public sites, galleries, and museums throughout the US. His work Manifest Destiny! (San Francisco, CA), White Cloud (Cleveland, OH), Wood-Pile (Cleveland, OH), Upriver-Downriver (Louisville, KY), Smökers (New York, NY), Rock Box (Cleveland, OH) and The Meeting House (Boston, MA) have been nationally recognized by the Americans for the Arts in their annual Year in Review as being amongst the "Best in Public Art" across the country. His newest site-specific installations include Wheelhouse in Arlington, VA, The Makers Monument in downtown Columbus, OH, Groundswell on the shore of the Potomac in Alexandria, and Formation at the San Diego International Airport. The Makers Monument was voted #1 Public Artwork in America in 2022 as part of the CODA Awards People's Choice ranking.

Reigelman is most proud of being included in the "Coolest Dads of 2019" list by Fatherly Magazine, which highlights the 50 coolest dads on earth. In the Innovation category, he shared this award with Jordan Peele, Kanye West, Adam Driver, and Hugh Herr.

Mark Reigelman studied sculpture and industrial design at the Cleveland Institute of Art in Cleveland, OH, and product design at Central St. Martin's College of Art and Design in London, UK. The Artist lives and works in Brooklyn, NY, USA.

ABOUT DATMA

Massachusetts Design Art and Technology Institute (DATMA), the non-collecting contemporary art institute, and its partners bring a variety of free public art and programs annually to New Bedford, MA. To celebrate the 5th anniversary of DATMA's founding, SHELTER 2023 will kick off June 22nd and present three outdoor artwork pieces, including THRESHOLD by Mark Reigelman, along with robust programmatic outreach and events, and educational workshops.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Fabrication and Installation: **Flywheel Industrial Arts** | Structural Engineering: **Yetiweurks**
Photography: **Andrew Kepinski & Mark Reigelman** | Videography: **Ethan de Aguiar**
Landscaping: **Elf's Landscape Inc.**



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