

# PAUL KASMIN GALLERY

DEBORAH KASS

OY/YO

NORTH 5<sup>th</sup> STREET PARK AND PIER

JULY 14 2017 – JULY 2018

## Deborah Kass iconic OY/YO Sculpture Returns to Brooklyn This Summer

BROOKLYN, NY— Douglaston Development and NYC Parks are pleased to announce the return of the monumental sculpture *OY/YO* by Deborah Kass along the Williamsburg waterfront situated at the North 5th Street Pier and Park. First presented in Brooklyn Bridge Park in December 2015, the sculpture will open to the public starting July 14 and remain on view in Williamsburg through July of next year.

Walking the line between respectful homage and brazen appropriation, Brooklyn-based artist Deborah Kass mimics and reworks the signature styles of iconic 20th century, often with a feminist twist. *OY/YO* is sourced from urban and Brooklyn slang, the statement “I am” in Spanish, and the popular Yiddish expression.

*OY/YO* has been a significant and reoccurring motif in Kass’ work since its first appearance in 2011, taking form in paintings, prints, and tabletop sculptures. In 2015, Two Trees Public Art first commissioned the large-scale *OY/YO* for Brooklyn Bridge Park’s Main Street lawn as part of Art in DUMBO. In a provocative gesture, *OY/YO*, measuring 8 x 17 x 5 ft and painted bright yellow on aluminum along the Williamsburg waterfront, is visible from Manhattan’s Skyscrapers including the Empire State Building.

“When my wife Randi learned through her affiliation with The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery that Deborah Kass’s iconic sculpture needed a home, we were more than happy to help by placing it on the esplanade of the North 5<sup>th</sup> Street Pier and Park which our firm built in cooperation with the CPC and NYC Parks,” said Jeff Levine, Chairman of Douglaston Development. “By participating in this new rotating art program in partnership with NYC Parks, the sculpture positioned in its new home can be enjoyed by all who visit the Williamsburg waterfront.”

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Deborah Kass employs the visual motifs of post-war painting to explore the intersection of politics, popular culture, art history and personal identity. Kass’s work is in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Solomon Guggenheim Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, The New Orleans Museum of Art, and The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C., among others. Most recently, The Jewish Museum in New York acquired an *OY/YO* for their collection.

Recent solo shows at the gallery include “No Kidding,” “feel good paintings for feel bad times,” “MORE feel good paintings for feel bad times” and “My Elvis +”. In 2012, The Andy Warhol Museum presented “Deborah Kass: Before and Happily Ever After, a Mid-Career Retrospective.”

In 2014, Kass was inducted into the New York Foundation for the Arts’ Hall of Fame. She is a member of the Board of the Andy Warhol Foundation and the Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program in Dumbo, Brooklyn. Recently, Kass was honored by Coalition for the Homeless Art Walk in 2015, received the 2016 Neuberger Museum of Art Passionate Artist Award and the Jewish Museum Honor in 2017.

Deborah Kass is represented by Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, Brand New Gallery, Milan and Thao Nguyen Creative Artists Agency.

### ABOUT DOUGLASTON DEVELOPMENT

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Douglaston Development is a New York City-based real estate development company, specializing in a wide range of projects from mixed-use developments, high-rise luxury rentals and condominiums, affordable and mixed and low-income housing, hospitality, senior communities and commercial spaces. Working in close collaboration with its affiliated construction and management companies, Levine Builders and Clinton Management, Douglaston Development has the advantage of being one of the few owner-builder-managers in the industry with expertise in successful acquisition, ground up construction and management of properties post-development. Over the past 40 years, the company has expanded its portfolio to include properties located in New York, Arizona, Washington and the United Kingdom. The firm's latest project is called Level and is located at 2N6th Place in Williamsburg. Level is a 40-story building featuring 554 rental units with direct access to the East River Ferry Pier. The property features a sophisticated lobby that overlooks a landscaped courtyard and reflecting pool; an indoor-outdoor swimming pool on the ninth floor with views of the Manhattan skyline; a terrace lounge with fireplace; and, an expansive club lounge with a demonstration kitchen. For more information, please visit: <http://www.douglastondevelopment.com/>

## ABOUT NYC PARKS

In 2017 NYC Parks' Art in the Parks program celebrates 50 years of bringing contemporary public artworks to the city's parks, making New York City one of the world's largest open-air galleries. The agency has consistently fostered the creation and installation of temporary public art in parks throughout the five boroughs. Since 1967, NYC Parks has collaborated with arts organizations and artists to produce over 2,000 public artworks by 1,300 notable and emerging artists in over 200 parks. For more information about the program visit [www.nyc.gov/parks/art](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/art).

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**#oyyo #artintheparks**