

Photos: New Brooklyn Sculpture Shouts "OY" At Manhattan

BY JEN CARLSON IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ON NOV 10, 2015 10:25 AM



(Jen Carlson/Gothamist)



OY/YO by Deborah Kass, making its debut in Brooklyn Bridge Park today.
(☞ @carlsonjen)

The newly renovated Main Street lawn in Brooklyn Bridge Park was adorned with a new sculpture this morning. The official unveiling will happen later today*, but artist Deborah Kass's OY/YO piece is already all set up, ready to be Instagrammed.

Here's a short FAQ we've prepared for you about the sculpture:

Q: Can I sit on it?

A: Maybe? The lawn is currently fenced off, though.

Q: Can I lean against it?

A: See above.

Q: Can I touch it?

A: Jesus, SEE ABOVE.

Q: I have seen the above, but I'm curious... will the lawn ever be open?

A: We asked the fine people at Brooklyn Bridge Park for you, and we were told, "The Main Street lawn is closed to allow the roots to establish—will most likely be open next week. Depending on the weather, of course."

Q: Can I take my engagement photos in front of it?

A: Be more original.

According to the press release, "OY/YO is sourced from urban and Brooklyn slang, the statement 'I am' in Spanish, and the popular Yiddish expression, and as a riff on Ed Ruscha's iconic word painting OOF" (which can be found at MoMA). It joins the ranks of other New Yorkisms found along the city's bridges, like the "Leaving Brooklyn: Oy Vey!" sign at the Williamsburg Bridge and the "Leaving Brooklyn: Fuhgeddaboutit" sign on the BQE. It's also a reoccurring motif in Kass' work, and has appeared in her paintings, prints, and smaller sculptures over the past four years.

This bright yellow aluminum piece is quite large, measuring 8 x 17 x 5 ft, and will be visible from the Manhattan side of the East River as well. It will remain in the Park through August 2016, and coincides with Kass's exhibition at Paul Kasmin Gallery, running December through January.