



## **News**

For Immediate Release

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### **Steve Tobin’s Steel Sculptures Take Root in the Garment District in the Heart of Midtown Manhattan**

***“New York Roots” unveiled as the latest in the Garment District Alliance’s Art on the Plazas program in partnership with NYC DOT Art***

**NEW YORK – April 2, 2025** – Renowned conceptual artist Steve Tobin has put down roots in the Garment District with his series of striking, monumental sculptures, *New York Roots*, as part of the [Garment District Alliance’s](#) latest public art exhibit.

Located on the Broadway plazas in the Garment District between 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Streets and 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Streets, *New York Roots* is a towering series of seven steel sculptures that invite viewers to reflect on relationships, families, and communities coming together for a shared purpose—just as roots intertwine to strengthen a tree.

*“New York Roots* is a captivating addition to the Garment District that transforms our public plazas into spaces for reflection and serves as an important reminder to stay rooted in our communities,” said **Barbara A. Blair, president of the Garment District Alliance**. “By framing the city through sweeping curves, Steve’s impressive sculptures invite passersby to engage with their surroundings in a new way, offering a moment of sanctuary while celebrating the energy that pulses through the streets we call home.”

The sculptures – which are free for viewing and will be accessible to the public through February 2026 – are part of Garment District Art on the Plazas, a year-round public art program made possible through NYC DOT Art Partners, an initiative of the New York City Department of Transportation’s Art Program (NYC DOT Art). The Garment District Alliance and NYC DOT work closely to coordinate and install exhibits and individual pieces to enhance public plazas and make them even more welcoming to New Yorkers.

“Our Broadway Plazas are a world-class destination, and the addition of *New York Roots* will create a moment of connection, growth, and respite for all who visit,” said **New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez**. “We thank the Garment District Alliance and artist Steve Tobin for their vision in displaying this grand tribute to nature, as well as their partnership to activate our streetscape.”

*New York Roots* embodies both the unseen strength of roots and the dynamic energy of human connection, evoking the sweeping motion of Japanese calligraphy and the fluidity of dance and embrace. These colossal structures—with the tallest reaching 22 feet—not only create striking landscapes through their sheer height but also through their flowing, intertwined shapes and the negative spaces they create. As viewers move around and beneath the sculptures, the forms shift and evolve, revealing ever-changing perspectives of the sky and cityscape. More than sculptures, *New York Roots* serves as an organic

guardian of its surroundings, inviting reflection, gathering, and a sense of unity within the space it transforms.

Celebrated for his expansive sculptures, Steve Tobin seamlessly intertwines nature and industry using materials like bronze, steel, stone, glass, and ceramics. Since the 1980s, he has been at the forefront of fostering existential transformation and environmental awareness. With a background in theoretical mathematics and physics, his work is deeply influenced and guided by scientific principles and his time teaching in Japan. Among his many notable installations, in New York City, Tobin is known for *Trinity Root*, a large-scale work donated to the Trinity Church in lower Manhattan as memorial to the 9/11 attacks. Tobin's works are featured in museums and public collections around the world, including The White House Permanent Art Collection in Washington, D.C.; the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Lausanne, Switzerland; the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; the Frost Art Museum in Miami, Florida; the Osaka Foundation in Japan; the Jing'An Sculpture Project (JISP) in Shanghai, China; the Museum of Art and Design (MAD) in New York City; and more.

"Thanks to the Garment District Alliance, New Yorkers and visitors to our vibrant city will have the chance to interact with Steve Tobin's towering, modernist sculptures in a way they can't in the gallery," said **Sundaram Tagore, founder of the Sundaram Tagore Gallery**. "I hope as they wander around, under and through these sinuous root forms, they discover the awe and delight art can awaken."

Previous Garment District Alliance installations since 2010 on Broadway include *Shaved Portions* by Chakaia Booker, a 35-foot-tall abstract sculpture comprised of deconstructed rubber tires (2024); *Cracked Ice* by Del Geist, a series of stone and stainless steel structures (2023); *Living Lantern* by NEON, an oversized illuminated lantern symbolizing hope (2023); *Rebirth* by Kang Muxiang, an installation of embryonic creatures made from reclaimed elevator cables, (2018); *Fancy Animal Carnival* by Hung Yi, a series of colorful and whimsical animal statues (2016); and *Five Elements* by Xin Song, glass enclosed collages made using traditional Chinese paper-cutting techniques (2013).

Visitors are encouraged to share their experiences with *New York Roots* on social media by following and tagging [@GarmentDistrictNYC](#) on Instagram, [@TheGarmentDistrictNYC](#) on Facebook, [@GarmentDstrctNY](#) on X, and [@Garment\\_District](#) on TikTok.

The Garment District is home to diverse business sectors from technology to hospitality and includes thousands of people working in the creative economy, including fine and performing artists, designers, architects, photographers and more than a hundred theaters, galleries, performance spaces and studios.

*Please direct media inquiries to Sarah James of Marino at 212-402-3520 or [sjames@marinopr.com](mailto:sjames@marinopr.com). For more information on the Garment District Space for Public Art, please visit <http://garmentdistrictnyc.com/arts/>*

### **About the Garment District Alliance**

The Garment District Alliance ([www.garmentdistrictnyc.com](http://www.garmentdistrictnyc.com)), is a not-for-profit corporation established in 1993 to improve the quality of life and economic vitality of Manhattan's Garment District. Through programs in the areas of streetscape improvements, sanitation and public safety, marketing and promotions, economic development, and community service, the Garment District Alliance supports the neighborhood's transformation into a modern, 24/7 destination for dining, nightlife, hotels and unique office space. For more information on the Garment District Alliance's many art initiatives and plaza programming, please visit <http://www.garmentdistrictnyc.com/art-design/>

### **About NYC DOT Art**

The New York City Department of Transportation's Art Program (NYC DOT Art) partners with community-based, nonprofit organizations and professional artists to present temporary public art on NYC DOT property throughout the five boroughs for up to eleven months. Artists transform streets with colorful murals, dynamic projections and eye-catching sculptures. Sidewalks, fences, triangles, medians, bridges, jersey barriers, step streets, public plazas and pedestrianized spaces serve as canvases and foundations

for temporary art. Since 2008, DOT Art has produced over 475 temporary artworks citywide. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/dotart](http://www.nyc.gov/dotart), [@nyc\\_DOTArt](https://www.instagram.com/nyc_DOTArt), [@nyc\\_DOT](https://www.facebook.com/nyc_DOT).