

## **MICHELE BRODY**

231 Lawrence Ave, Highland Park, NJ, 08904, (646) 522-9924, [www.michelebrody.com](http://www.michelebrody.com), [michele@michelebrody.com](mailto:michele@michelebrody.com)

### **SEED POSTS**

With a BA from Sarah Lawrence College in 1989 and an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1994, I have spent the past 15 years utilizing a strong background in the liberal arts to create site-specific, mixed media installations and works of public art that are generated by the history, culture, environment, and architecture of a wide range of venues. While living and working in such places as France, Costa Rica, California, the Midwest, Germany, New York, and most recently in Pennsylvania, my art career has developed into a process of working in collaboration with each new community as a means towards developing an interpretation of the sense of a place as an outsider looking in.

The essence of my work is to understand how we live with change while trying to manage the delicacy of memory within the constant flux of life.

With each new project I concentrate on the exploration of light, color, pattern and time - by interweaving manmade, natural, and living materials to create both an aesthetic and educational happening. My intent is to generate a transformational experience, where the viewer develops a new sense of awareness about him or herself within the surrounding environment.

*Seed Posts* represents these ideas to the fullest. It is a public art project that can be permanent or temporary, depending on the situation of its location. It is meant to evoke the upright grandeur of the city, and the need to plant vertically in order to fit into tight spaces. *Seed Posts* is also about planting in sites that are not expected to host gardens, such as construction scaffolding, brick walls, and boundary fences. *Seed Posts* also provides an accessible opportunity for passersby to interact with nature in a form that is traditionally horizontal, thus making it easier to touch and caress, reminding one of laying out on a grassy field.

The temporary version of *Seed Posts* is essentially made out of a polyester lace that has been stuffed with grass seed and a non-organic growing medium. It is supported by an interior structure that can be custom attached to existing posts, fences or a flat facade. Each *Seed Post* is connected to a drip irrigation system that automatically waters each one with fortifying nutrients. Excess water can be caught below in a recycling water system, or allowed to seep out into a pre-established reservoir, catch basin or low land plantings. The work can be installed up to three months on a site, with daily maintenance to check on the water, add in nutrients and overflow.

A more permanent version of *Seed Posts* is currently being developed out of a laser cut aluminum to allow for a light-weight installation that will not rust. This will allow *Seed Posts* to be replanted as needed, or be originally sowed with a more tolerant plant that can grow through the openings in the lace surface.

The Budget for the temporary version of *Seed Posts* could run from \$12,000 to \$20,000, depending on the number of posts fabricated. The majority of this budget is for the labor to

produce and maintain *Seed Posts*. The permanent version will run around \$30,000 to \$50,000 for the set up and fabrication of the aluminum posts.