

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Harold Stevens Gallery

WCUW 91.3 Community Radio
910 Main Street, Worcester, MA

Exhibition: A Visual Conversation with the World

Ceramic sculpture and wearable art by the artist Jill Watts

December 19, 2024 through February 2, 2025

Artist reception 5pm to 7pm, December 19

The Harold Stevens Gallery announces an upcoming show featuring the ceramic sculpture and wearable art by Jill Watts, a longtime Worcester resident and artist.

Jill's style has an immediacy through intense gestures, often contorted bodies rapidly formed, that intensifies the often uneasy and even dangerous situation faced by the protagonists in her. Curated by artists Catherine Smith and Katie Dye, this is Jill Watts first retrospect that brings together a vast scope of her talents as one of Worcester's most diverse artist.

Born in Worcester, MA, Jill Watts left for brief periods, first on a Frances A. Kinnicutt Fellowship from Worcester Art Museum to Spain and Morocco. Later, she traveled to Russia. After retiring, she became a Peace Corps volunteer assigned to create and implement a visual arts program for grades K-6 in Piaye, St. Lucia. Over the years, many diverse organizations such as Piedmont Center for the Arts, Grove St. Gallery, the Gallery of Atwood Allaire, Arts Worcester, Worcester Center for Crafts, the Sprinkler Factory Gallery, and Worcester Cultural Council provided Jill with grants and exhibitions.

Educated through Worcester Center for Craft, Clark University and Goddard College led Jill Watts to BFA and MA degrees. She writes that her Master's Thesis from Goddard College's External Degree Program was "to devise alternative methods of teaching art to women that featured collective creation."

Jill has worked as a social worker, art educator, welfare rights advocate and artist. Jill's works span performance, video, collage, and sculpture. The exhibition at Harold Steven's Gallery will feature her wearable art and figurative ceramic sculptures. She writes, "For some time now I have been exploring the incongruity of our outward appearance and our inner image of self. . . We experience the world through our bodies." Other pieces have been made in response to "the many conflicts in the world today."

The Harold Stevens Gallery at WCUW, 910 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610. Business phone: 508-753-1012; studio phone: 508-753-2284.

Gallery hours are: Monday, 12-3pm, Wednesday, 2-4 pm, Thursday, 1-5 pm, and Saturday, 11am-1 pm.