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Before They Go

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beforetheygo ROBIN MUREZ

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@robin_murez_venicepublicart "My art is narrative and usually unexpected." A creator of Public Art sculptures, Robin gravitated towards art as a child, but it was after leaving a career as a business manager and lawyer for athletes after a stint at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that she enrolled in an MFA program to pursue a career in art. "I didn't want to be a political activist but I wanted to see social change happen."

In 2000, with a desire to improve Venice with visual arts, Robin started creating and placing interactive pieces around the community. "Everyone around seemed to be complaining about change, change on Abbot Kinney. I felt I didn't want to complain, that I wanted to make it better." There are now about a dozen of her pieces dotting the neighborhood accompanied by signs that tell stories about the history of Venice. "They're interactive, unexpected, discreet, and fun. People are thrilled in discovering them and the colorful stories of Venice that they depict."

Robin has been in her current studio space at the outdoor Venice Pop Up Park on Broadway since spring 2017, having been granted use by the property owner in support of her newest public art project, the larger scale Venice Flying Carousel. "The carousel is bicycle propelled. One person can pedal the bike and make the whole thing turn around. It will be in Centennial Park next to the Venice Library." Robin is carving the elements, yet hopes to get a lot of people involved. "I want the public to help design the creatures and adopt them. They can be from an ostrich to a rocket ship to a guitar. Anything that brings out the colorful story of Venice." Other Venice artists are being invited to paint medallions for the carousel. Once completed, 15 adults will be able to ride at one time.

Robin has had assorted large public art commissions around the country and previously had Robin's Sculpture Garden on Abbot Kinney, an outdoor gallery and workspace she created in what had been a vacant lot, which included an amphitheater with a one-ring circus where she hosted events from 2000-2015 until the property sold. #venicebeach #sculpture #artistsstudio #artist #venice #publicart