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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Broadway Mall Association Presents

Kathy Ruttenberg on Broadway: in dreams awake

*Six Monumental Sculptures to be Installed on Broadway
Opening April 27, 2018*



Kathy Ruttenberg, Fish Bowl (rendering), 2018, cast silicon bronze, polychrome patina, ceramic, acrylic, cast polyurethane resin, cast concrete, LED lighting. Photo by Fionn Reilly

March 20, 2018 (New York, NY) — On April 27, 2018, a fairytale dream will come true on Broadway. The spectacular production is not the latest star-studded musical theater blockbuster. Instead, the performers in this show are six large-scale, figural sculptures by Kathy Ruttenberg, an internationally known artist who makes her Broadway debut as a new kind of story-telling impresario. The installation, titled *Kathy Ruttenberg on Broadway: in dreams awake*, will appear on the Broadway malls, the tree-lined green way between 64th and 157th Streets in Manhattan and will be on view through February 2019. The artist's first major outdoor sculpture installation is presented by the Broadway Mall Association and organized in cooperation with NYC Parks.

Ruttenberg is admired by critics and curators for her fantastical narrative sculptures that combine human, animal, and plant forms. In the Broadway malls installation, she explores a broad mix of sculptural media including patinated bronze, glass mosaic, transparent cast resin, and carefully orchestrated LED lighting. The interaction between color, form, opacity, transparency, and light itself as an artistic medium highlights the inherently theatrical nature of the visual storyteller's art.

Ruttenberg's work has been exhibited in museums and galleries since the early 1980s. Taken out of the gallery and onto the streets, her characters embrace even greater significance as they interact with the urban environment. Ruttenberg has painstakingly studied the sites along Broadway, and her carefully placed polychrome players blur the lines between dream and reality: a singing tree performs on a pedestal across from Lincoln Center; a smartly dressed *Ms. Mighty Mouse* surveys her domain at 79th Street, perhaps dreaming of the cheese at nearby Zabar's; at 117th Street/Columbia University and Barnard College, Ruttenberg proposes an alternative to Atlas carrying the globe on his shoulders: an acrobatic goddess stands on her head and balances the earth on her feet, presenting a new view of the world to its future leaders.

The artist explains her merging of flora and fauna as "an urban escape into a rural wonderland; the pace of the city contrasts with the rhythms of nature raising questions of what effect this disparity has on the human psyche; man's relationship to nature is an underlying concern throughout my work. As the inhabitants of the natural world are increasingly displaced by urban and suburban sprawl, I find myself using anthropomorphic fables to return nature's creatures to our human consciousness."

Casual passersby will find their day brightened, and more curious viewers will find dreams brought to reality through the alchemy of Ruttenberg's art. It was Henry David Thoreau who said, "Our truest life is when we are in dreams awake," and Ruttenberg's sculptural prowess delightfully breaks the boundaries between art, the urban environment, nature, dream, and reality.

About Kathy Ruttenberg

Born in Chicago, raised in New York City, and now a resident of upstate New York, Kathy Ruttenberg began her career as a painter and filmmaker after graduating from the School of Visual Arts in 1981. She was a participant in the East Village art scene, bringing figurative and narrative art to the fore after a decade of minimalism had dominated the art scene. She is most recognized for her large-scale ceramic sculptures, which have been exhibited at the Biennale Internationale de Vallauris, the American Museum of Ceramic Art, the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, Caramoor, the Roger Williams Botanical Center, and many other venues. Permanent public installations of



Ruttenberg's site-specific work can be seen at the Tisch Children's Zoo, New York, NY and the Mamiraua Sustainable Development Reserve, Brazil.

About the Broadway Mall Association

For over 30 years, the Broadway Mall Association (BMA) has worked to beautify and maintain the verdant malls in the center of Broadway from 70th Street to 168th Street. Today, BMA remains committed to the vision of the malls as a beautiful stretch of greenery uniting the diverse neighborhoods along Broadway. To maintain the 10.6-acre parkland, BMA oversees the landscape design and the horticulture elements of the malls, and provides watering and sanitation to supplement services provided by NYC Parks. Each year, BMA decorates many malls with sparkling, reusable LED lights during the dark winter months and stages world-class exhibitions of contemporary art, such as *Kathy Ruttenberg on Broadway: in dreams awake*. **Broadwaymall.org**

About Art on the Malls

Art on the Malls is the Broadway Mall Association's program to enliven the Broadway malls with contemporary art, which was launched in 2005 with the major exhibition, *Tom Otterness on Broadway*. Since then, BMA has exhibited the work of more than 20 internationally recognized artists on the malls, including Joy Brown, Saint Clair Cemin, Dan Colen, Carole Eisner, Don Gummer, Manolo Valdés, and Peter Woytuk.

About NYC Parks

In 2018, NYC Parks' "Art in the Parks" program celebrates over 50 years of bringing contemporary public artworks to the city's parks, making New York City one of the world's largest open-air galleries. The agency has consistently fostered the creation and installation of temporary public art in parks throughout the five boroughs. Since 1967, NYC Parks has collaborated with arts organizations and artists to produce over 2,000 public artworks by 1,300 notable and emerging artists in over 200 parks.

Representation

Kathy Ruttenberg is represented by Francis M. Naumann Fine Art, 24 West 57th Street, suite 305, New York, NY 10019. (212) 582-3201. Contact info@francisnaumann.com. Her first solo show at the gallery will be held from January 11-March 8, 2019. It will consist of works relating to her "On Broadway" exhibition, as well as new works in a variety of media made for the exhibition.