

Kathleen Bitetti
BIO

Kathleen Bitetti is practicing visual artist, public policy expert and an independent curator. For over twenty years, Kathleen has been advocating and advising on local, state and national levels for artist's rights, first amendment and intellectual property protection, access to affordable health care & health care reform, arts funding, small business issues, the creative and cultural economies, and the development of free or low cost resources/services for artists working in all genres, small arts related businesses, cultural nonprofits, and for grassroots arts organizations. She holds a BA in both Economics (with a specialization in Public Policy) and Art (art history & studio) from the University of Massachusetts/Boston.

In March of 2012 she is curating a two person show of work by Dan McCole and Brian Reardon at the Distillery Gallery in Boston and in May 2012 she is co-curating and participating in the group show, *About & Engaged*, at the Godine Family Gallery at Massachusetts College of Art & Design. In January 2011, she became the chief curator at Medicine Wheel Productions and to date she has worked with over 500 artists. Prior to her position at MWP, Bitetti was the director of the Lillian Immig Gallery at Emmanuel College from 1999 to 2010, the executive director of the Artists Foundation from Fall 1992 to August 2009 and she was also the director of the Harbor Gallery at University of Massachusetts, Boston from 1989-92.

Bitetti was a long term board member of the Massachusetts Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts and is presently serving on the advisory board of Artmorpheus. She helped to found the Annual Artists Under the Dome event at the Massachusetts State House and is the co-founder of the Massachusetts Artists Leaders Coalition, the Artists Health Care Working Group and the State House Artists Working Group. She also helped to found: www.healthcareforartists.org, & www.artistsunderthedome.org.

Since the early 1990s, her art work has involved the creation of conceptually based sociopolitical objects, installations and community based projects. Research, unassuming and often undetectable autobiographical references, historical references, contemporary sociopolitical issues, and sewing are very important to Bitetti and help to comprise the foundation she builds on for all of her artworks. Her work deconstructs the American dream, fairy tales, nursery rhymes, and lullabies that are part of our childhood and adult culture. Her work also often addresses gender roles/gender assignment, the fragility of family dynamics, domestic violence and the underlying threads of violence and danger that underpin American society.

Her work is in the permanent collections of the DeCordova Museum, the New Bedford Art Museum and Gozo Contemporary (Malta). Bitetti is currently an artist in residence in the City of Quincy for 2005-12. In February 2012 her work will be featured in a group show at Simmons College and she will have a solo show at the Godine Family Gallery at Mass College of Art in May 2012. Also in 2012 she will be returning to Malta to complete the project she started in 2009 while at an invitational residency at Gozo Contemporary.