

100 Women We Love: Class Of 2019

June 30, 2019 S.E. Jackson, JD Glass, Robin Kish, Alicia Eler, Che Landon, and Dayna Troisi

Deborah Kass



Photo by Grace Roselli

Many New Yorkers (and visitors to New York City) know Deborah Kass's work without even realizing it. That's because her iconic sculpture, "OY/YO"—two bright yellow letters that read in both directions, depending on which side you're standing—is an irresistible selfie backdrop. Originally installed in Brooklyn Bridge Park, where it became an instant hit, it's now proudly installed in front of the Brooklyn Museum, and Stanford University has commissioned it for a Fall 2019 installation. An artist who examines the intersection of art history, popular culture, and the self, Kass has work in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of Art, and the National Portrait Gallery, just to name a few. She's shown her work internationally at the Venice Biennale, the Istanbul Biennale, and the Museum Ludwig, Cologne. To her, her career "wasn't a choice." The Cultural Honoree at the Jewish Museum in 2017 says the most rewarding aspect of her work is "when it speaks to others." Kass serves on the boards of the Sharpe Walentas Studio Program and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. In 2018 she was inducted into the National Academy of Design. Her message and her advice? "Stay strong, stay proud, stay fearless, stay loud!" —JDG