

Gillian Christy was born in Iowa in 1979. She graduated from West High School in 1997 and attended the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, IA, receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2002. In 2003, she moved to Providence, RI, where she currently resides. August 9, 2008, she married Russell Stanton Preston IV.

Attending University of Northern Iowa was an extremely formative time for Ms. Christy's development as an artist. She discovered new materials, such as metal, and was introduced to the avenue of public art. In 2001, Ms. Christy studied for a semester in Florence, Italy at Studio Art Center International. This study abroad experience is still evident in her work today. While still in school, Christy received her first site-specific commission from the Genesis East Hospital for the new Heart Institute in Davenport, IA. Upon graduating, The Meryl and James Hearst Center for the Arts added *Nestled* to their Permanent Collection in Cedar Falls, IA.

Setting her sights towards the East Coast she moved to Providence, RI. Since her work is greatly influenced by her surroundings, the sculpted Mid-West farming implements soon transformed into sculpted urban mills, vents and staircases. Upon arriving in 2003, Christy participated in the Art festival, Convergence. Also during this time she created three-dimensional commercial graphics for the NFL on CBS as well as pieces for *The Apprentice*, *Gravity Games* and HBO.

In 2005 Christy received a commission in Providence, RI from a non-profit organization and a commercial developer to create an urban signifier *Embrace*, which was installed May 2007. Through this project she received grants from The Rhode Island State Council for the Arts, Rhode Island Foundation-*New Works 2005*, and The Berkshire Taconic Foundation. Commissioned by another non-profit organization she created *The Return Home* for a local pedestrian bridge, installed in March 2008. Then created work for the Mary Brennan Boardroom at T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, RI. During this time she participated in public art exhibitions in Tennessee, Florida, Colorado, Iowa and Massachusetts.

In 2009, Christy celebrated her first solo exhibition *Inside Outside* in the Mayer Gallery at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. This exhibition travelled, and was next shown in the Hammond Gallery at Fitchburg State University in Fitchburg, MA. She was also awarded the Caldwell Council Public Art Award and exhibited *American Dreams* in Lenoir, NC for one year. In November 2009 she completed a corporate art commission with Sunne Savage Gallery. *Wave Traveler* was installed as the focal point of a circular drive at Waterplace Luxury Residence, in Providence, RI.

During the summer of 2010, Ms. Christy exhibited works in *Home and Harbor* in Watertown, MA. November 2010 marked the completion of the permanent public art project, *Pathways*, a Gateway to Main Street project in Fitchburg, MA. This project received a grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts to spend six months actively gathering community input on the final design. Most recently, she has been accepted as a new member to Boston Sculptors Gallery.