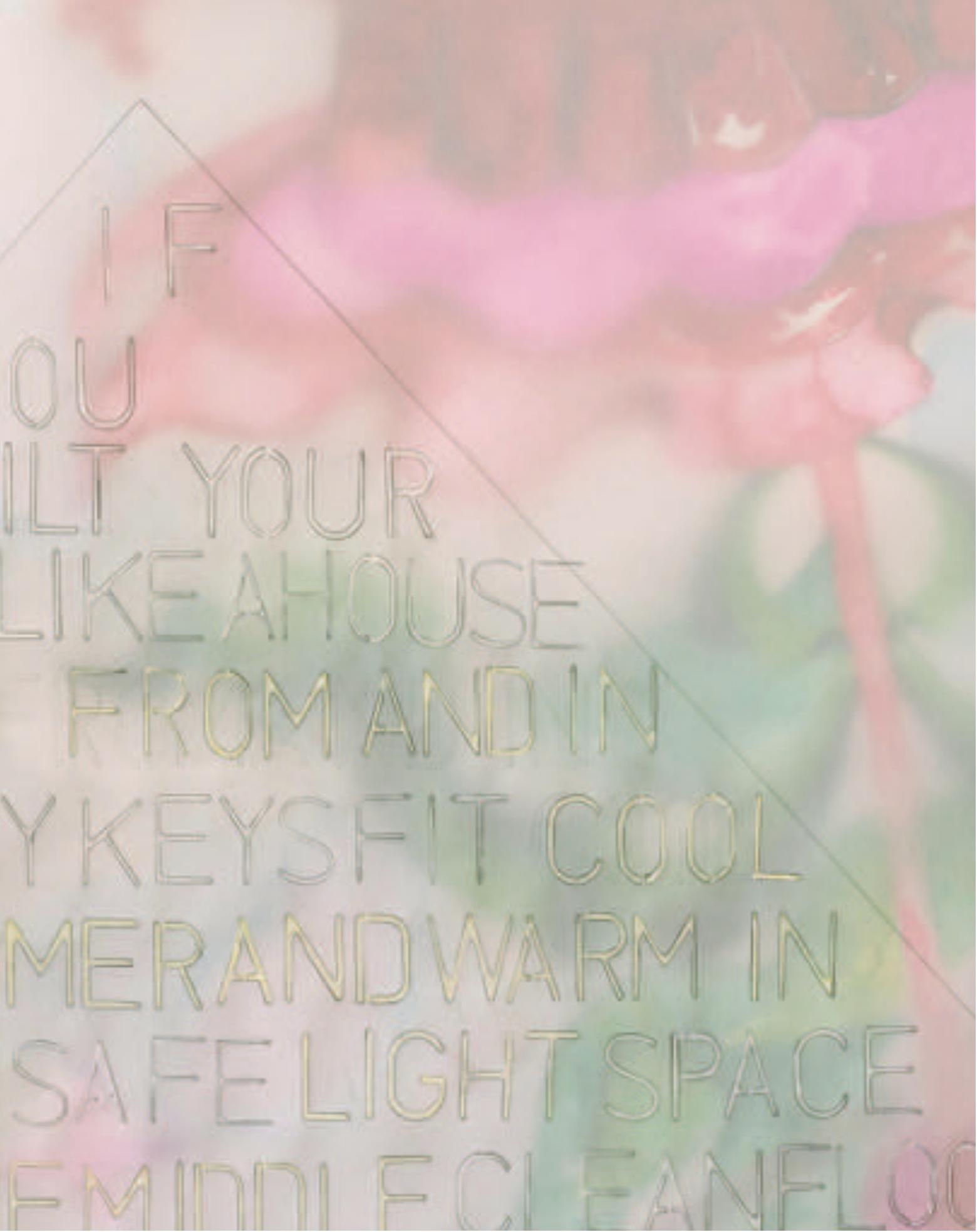


GRACE IN DWELLING

A soft-focus photograph of a garden scene. In the foreground, there's a white picket fence. Beyond it, a lawn with green grass and pink flowers. The background is blurred, showing more of the garden.

BU
LIFE I
TO AND
WHERE M
IN THE SUM
THE WINTER
FLOWERS IN TH

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small potted plant. The plant has long, thin green leaves and delicate pink flowers. The background is blurred, showing some foliage and possibly a garden setting.

IF
YOU
BUILT YOUR
LIFE LIKE A HOUSE
FROM AND IN
YOUR KEYS FIT COOL
MERCER AND WARM IN
SAFE LIGHT SPACE
EMMIDI EFCI CLEAN FLOOR

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www.carlalobmier.com

Published by Ragged Sky Press

www.raggedsky.com

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ISBN (pbk.) 978-1-933-974-28-6

This book has been composed in Lato

Printed on acid-free paper

Printed in the United States of America

Book design by Jean Foos / www.foosprojects.com

All photographs by Carla Lobmier, except as noted.

Photos by Nancy Williams Casey on pages 10, 11, 12 and 85.

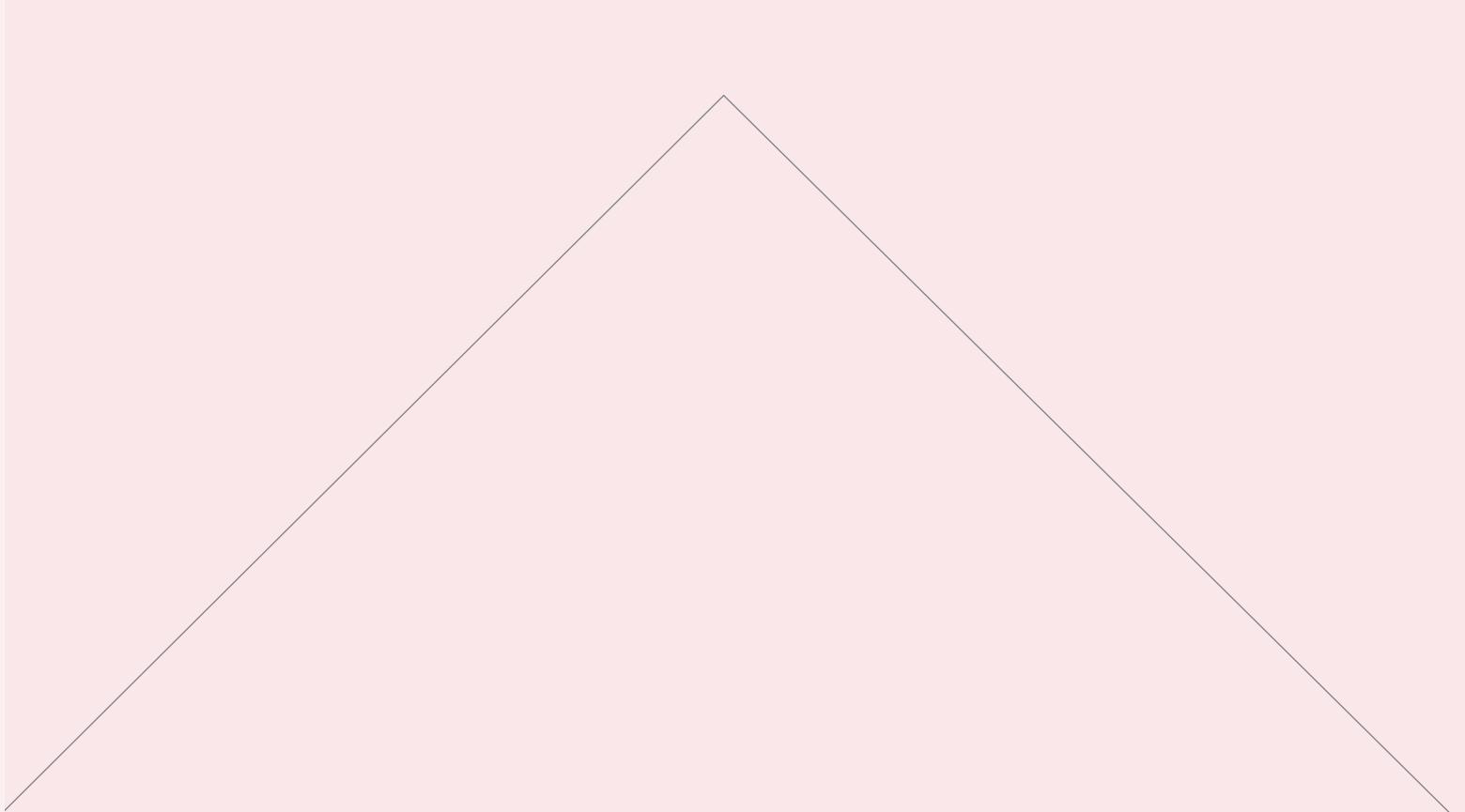
Photos by Dirk Rowntree on pages 1, 2, 6,

87, 88, and 91-98.

RAGGED SKY PRESS



PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY



GRACE IN DWELLING

IF YOU BUILT YOUR LIFE LIKE A HOUSE

by Carla Lobmier

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TRUSTY TOOLBOX YOUR BOOK AND
HOW QUIET BUT NOT TOO QUIET
CING IT IS WELCOME JAPANESE
EACH FALL PEOPLE SEE
PLE OUT WITH NODS TRUSTING
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DENS PRIVACY PEACE TAKING TURN
CONVERSATION MOSTLY AGAIN
LL HOLD A DREAM OF BUILDING
ERE THE ART IS EAGER STOVE
BEAUTY JOY GRACE IN DWELLING



**IF
YOU
BUILT
YOUR
LIFE
LIKE
A
HOUSE**



NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Ministry of Education
Ontario Curriculum
1997 - 2000



Introduction

Grace in Dwelling began as a photographic project, as well as a collected journal of thoughts. As part of Queens Art Intervention 2017, on the afternoon of September 23, the general public was invited to pause and meet me on the sidewalk near Travers Park, Jackson Heights, Queens. Jackson Heights is my home neighborhood. Participants wrote responses to two questions and permitted me to take their photographs to document taking part in this Intervention. The questions: *What makes a happy home for you? What is your understanding of this in your community?* I am interested in studying how people define home, and, in particular, a happy home and hoped that day to hear back from individuals, couples or entire families to understand a variety of perceptions of grace in dwelling.

This book records these meetings with people and the reflections gathered the day of the Intervention. The communication was sometimes unexpected. Those who stopped by my table appeared eager for connection and, often, quickly disclosed something private. Completed response forms were clipped to a nearby fence and rotated as received throughout the afternoon. Every so often, I observed someone reading this arrangement of papers. Interestingly to me, people either compressed their responses to the most essential concern or gave a detailed description from their introspection.

While the text has been edited by me, my aim was to stay true to each person's words as I looked for patterns and shaped the story of a happy home. This story includes the relationship of home to community. Community to be defined by the individual replying to my questions. Occasionally, I shifted the order of phrases to refine meaning. Punctuation was mostly omitted as the text became an assemblage of fragments emerging from the group. Fragments entangled.

The collected text informed the art piece that I made for the Queens Museum group exhibition of the work of the 2017 QAI artists. This exhibition was on view at the QM, December 11, 2017 through January 19, 2018. Words or phrases from the intervention were selected and lettered by hand on the vellum paper top layer of my piece to



make a house of text. The underneath layer of the art piece is painted on traditional watercolor paper. The two layers are sandwiched together forming a scroll with painted imagery visible through the filmy vellum with text.

Imagery reveals my own thinking about grace in dwelling converging with the elsewhere shared by the contributors. What makes a happy home for you? My essential concerns: light, space, time slowed, quiet, beauty, books to read, art, gardens, green in my windows, music, movement, company, conversation, love.

To date, *Grace in Dwelling* is the happiest piece that I have made.

—Carla Lobmier



The Responders





a place of belonging(s) and comfort(s)
belonging as in longing to be there
as in fitting and participating as an integral part of a partnership and family
The trusty toolbox, patient book, eager stove pot to provide utility and joy
free of all pretenses

In my community, there are joys of light, air and space so precious in NYC
Jackson Heights was designed with a sense of place wherein our neighbors
are all in it together

escaping the rush of Manhattan and the MTA
This is a bit of an *unspoken secret*
we share with our neighbors
Here it reduces guards and leaves us more aware of
and willing to help our neighbors

the physical place helps the psyche and restores us to human

him:

home is *where my keys fit*

the door I like to think

I close against the world

to and from and in the blocks around my home

the people I've passed with *nods* for years and never spoken with

mostly again but sometimes

her:

it's anticipation of the return

it's the memory of hearing the heat clack on those cold mornings before school

it's the pleasure of *solitude with your book and pillow*

I step off the subway and walk past the same trees

look up to see the changing light

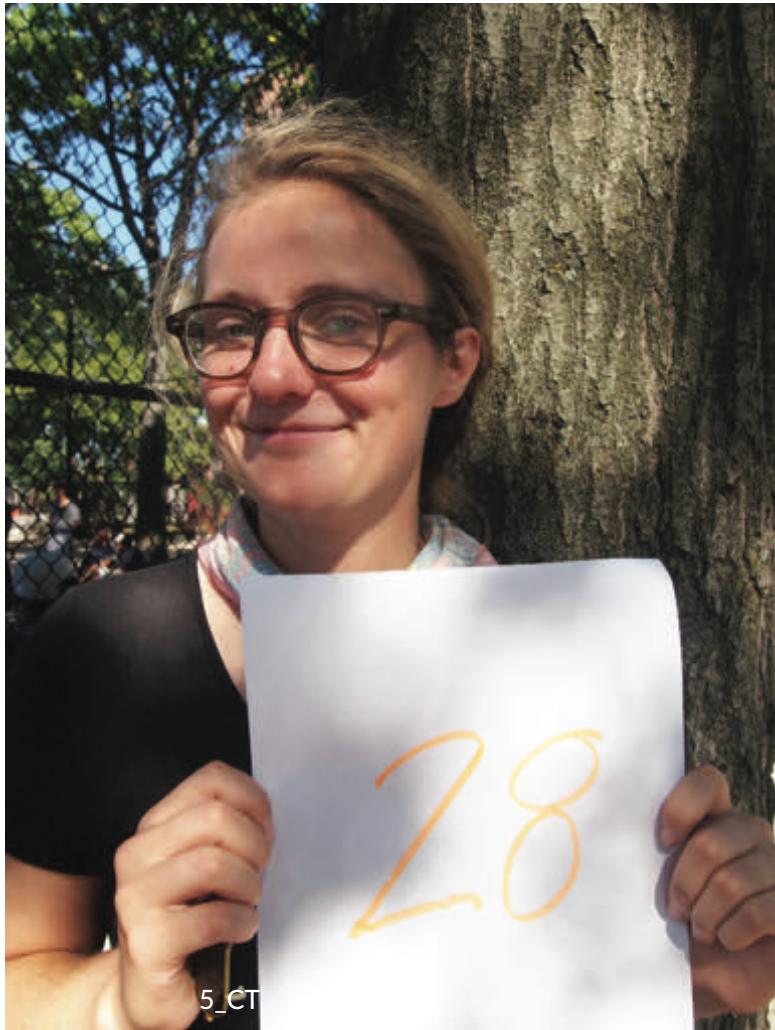
look at the restaurant where I was married

the neighborhood where my great grandparents moved to fresh off the boat from Sicily

I listen for Italian outside of the members only club

wonderful, strange circle it is





a happy home for me is calm

bright in the day

and less lit at night

there is a lot of noise from traffic and construction

quiet times are valued

nobody is in command
people who relate to each other
there is *intellectual activity*

a community who takes one another seriously
differences are respected





dancing
it is welcome
music
part of an education
separate spaces and together spaces
independence
quiet
soft places touch
clear surfaces
a sign of togetherness
direct sunlight
deep conversations, intellectual stimulation, emotional connectivity
silliness
never enough
people caring for a space together
productivity is success
a full fruit basket
a glowing Christmas tree Anglo-Saxon European meets
new age meets southern
not religious
ritual
big celebrations are how we show love

them:

getting up in the middle of the night
for a drink of water
and
seeing the light of the full moon
streaming through my kitchen window

peace
harmony with the environment





I can work on my paintings and look at them all the time
Home and work are one

Feeling safe in one's home is a universal need

people help and support each other
morally, economically, physically

my neighbors help in any way possible
in like manner, I help them
it's not right to be helped and not help others



family, safety, comfort, family dinners, friendly people

an active and caring community

Travers Park on Sunday

my kid's smell hugs

my husband falling asleep on my lap while watching a movie

dancing in the living room





waking up from my comfy bed
seeing my father and mother
in this space of family comfort

when I go to the park I see my friends
that makes me feel at home

them:

no mortgage, no maintenance, no crazy neighbors

a loving helpmate

a kitchen for making great meals

a stock of books

a place to daydream

a decent wifi connection

oh yeah, a peaceful place to write





positivity
feeling accepted and loved
respect

Jackson Heights has a variety of cultures
No other neighborhood is more diverse than us!
Everyone can feel welcome here!

them:

being surrounded by memories
of our lives and travels
together
building new experiences every day
by ourselves
and with the people around us



a place of peace
one can let go of the pressures of every day
one is embraced with love
and embrace others
there is no judgement
I have my daughter and my husband
a network of support
discussions are open and inviting
inclusive





you know you are safe, loved, comforted and respected
our daughter laughing and talking
to her new brother is home at its happiest

Jackson Heights is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in NYC!
what I love about my hometown is how welcoming
it is

them:

estar unidos

to be together





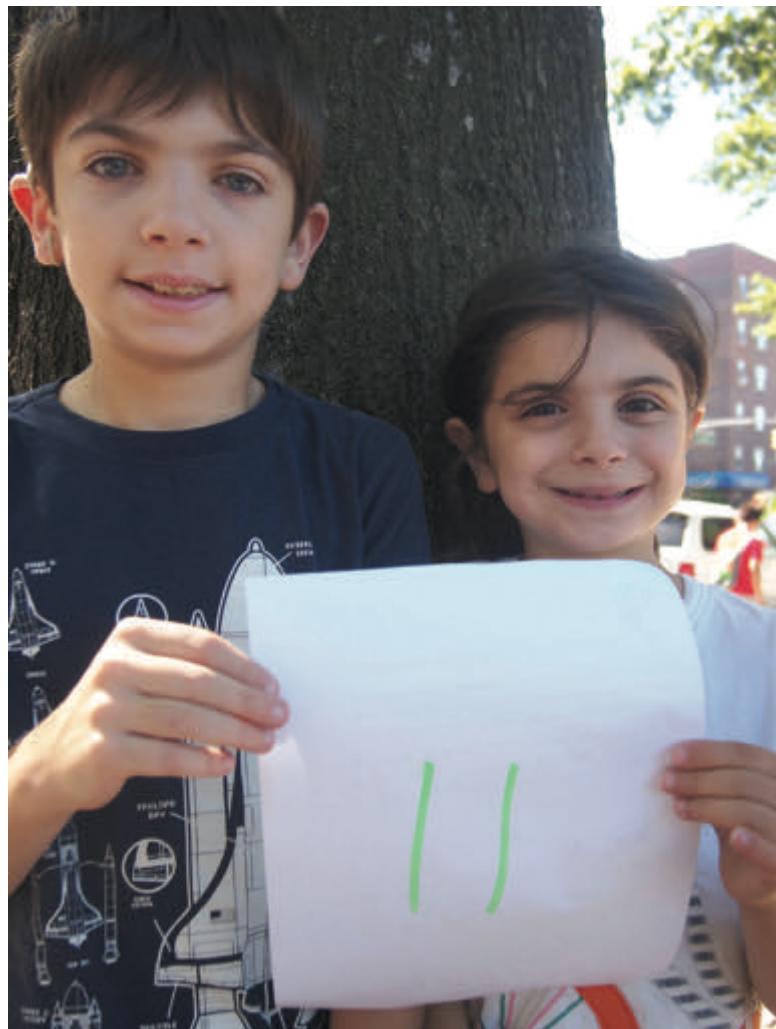


families and friends come together
memories are made
traditions are celebrated
community brings comfort, warmth and a sense of security

them:

to us a happy home is companions, food, four walls and a roof
it makes us feel cozy and safe
it feels like you're loved

nice neighbors and good schools make you feel like you belong



him:

clean floors

uncluttered

parks and playgrounds are

safe and kept clean

her:

dancing and smiling

her:

watching my tv shows

her:

putting flowers in the middle of my house

looking at the flowers in the neighborhood

her:

relaxing on the couch

fun places to go for kids and parents

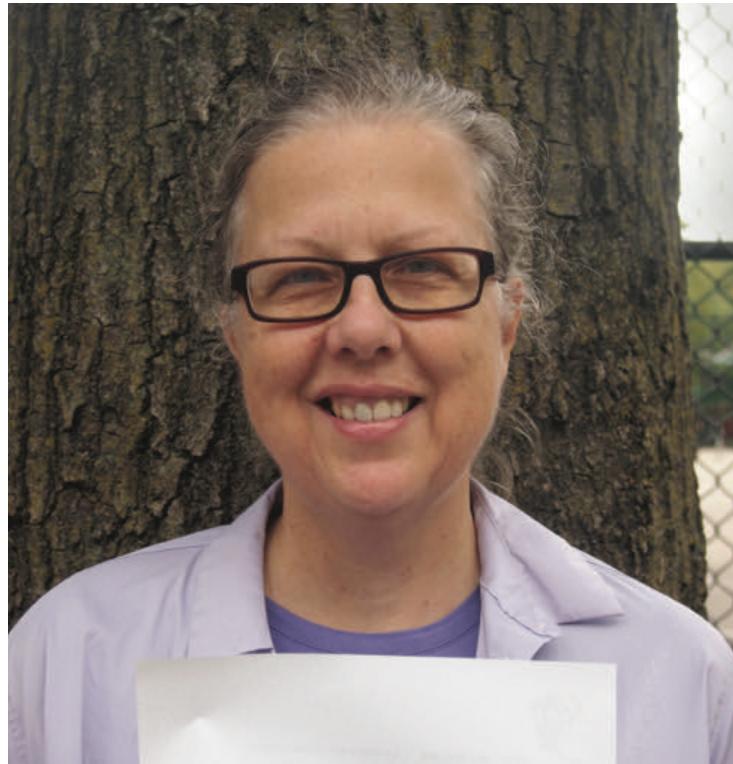




nice roommates
a fair rent
no smoking!

privacy





A refuge
safe
connection
A place of gratitude, reflection, love, peace

I leave and return to with relief and gladness

At times, this happiness of home precludes my entering community
At times, it isolates me from joining in
Balancing is necessary for me to have home and community
getting out of my comfort zone of home to join in
often not easy

I recognize its worth



her:

Contentment, refuge, shelter

Love, whether I have my family there, or if I am single, love for myself

Home is a reflection of what nurtures me

protects, soothes, strengthens

I am able to go out to the world outside my home feeling strong

People accept me in my community

The building I live in now is full of people who make their apartment

their forever home

familiarity makes a community

I love my community here in NYC because it isn't car culture

people see people out and about on the street

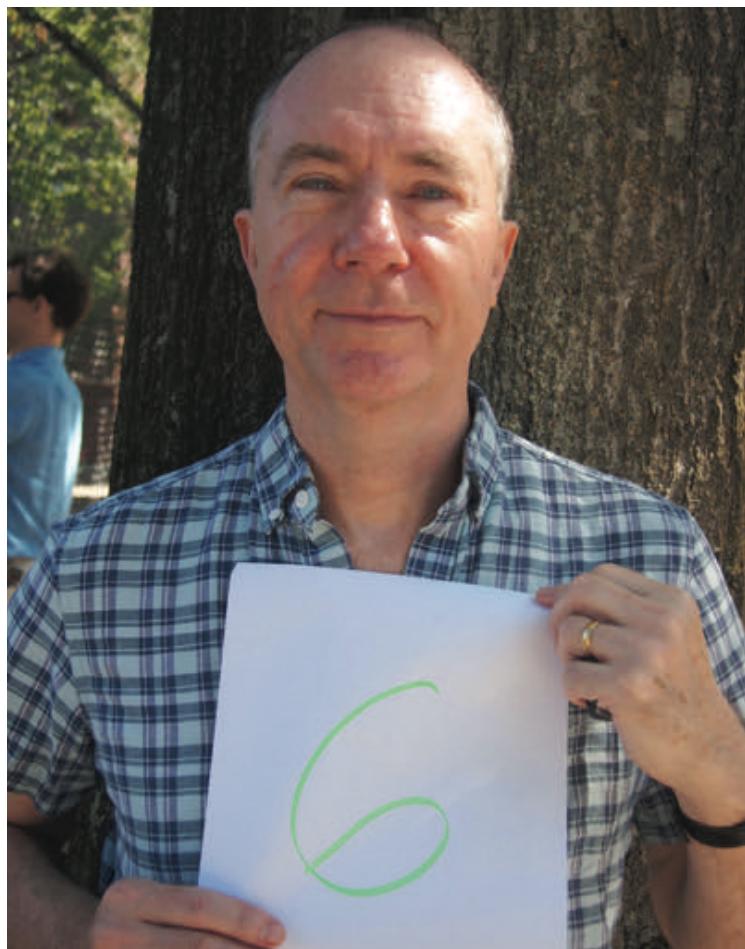
there are people I say "hi" to every day

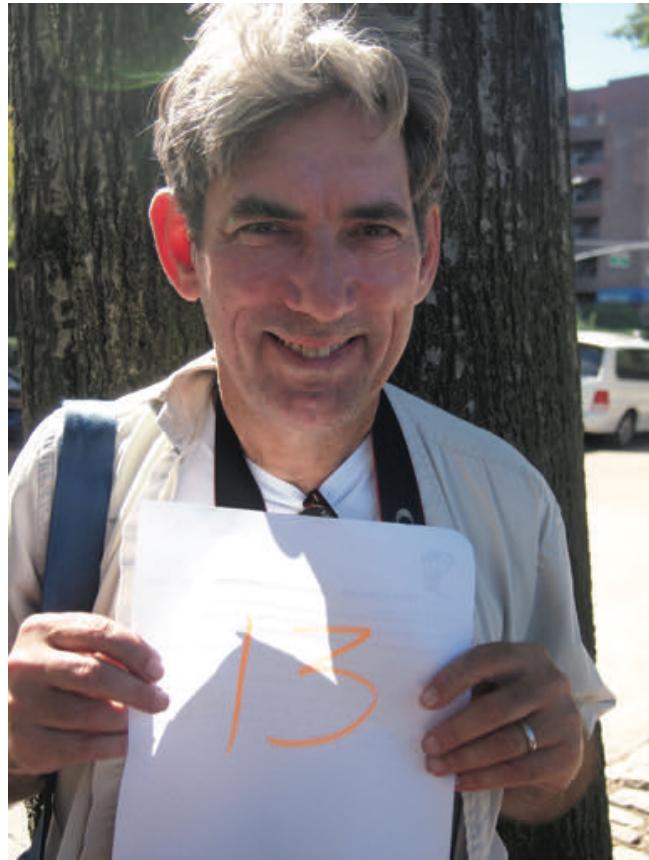
they become an extension of home

him:

A nice wife to come home to

Everyone should have other people to support them in their community





him:

the smell of homemade cooking
crossword puzzles, board games
one with love

As you approach this happy home, there are neighbors
saying hello and walking dogs
trees, grass, birds

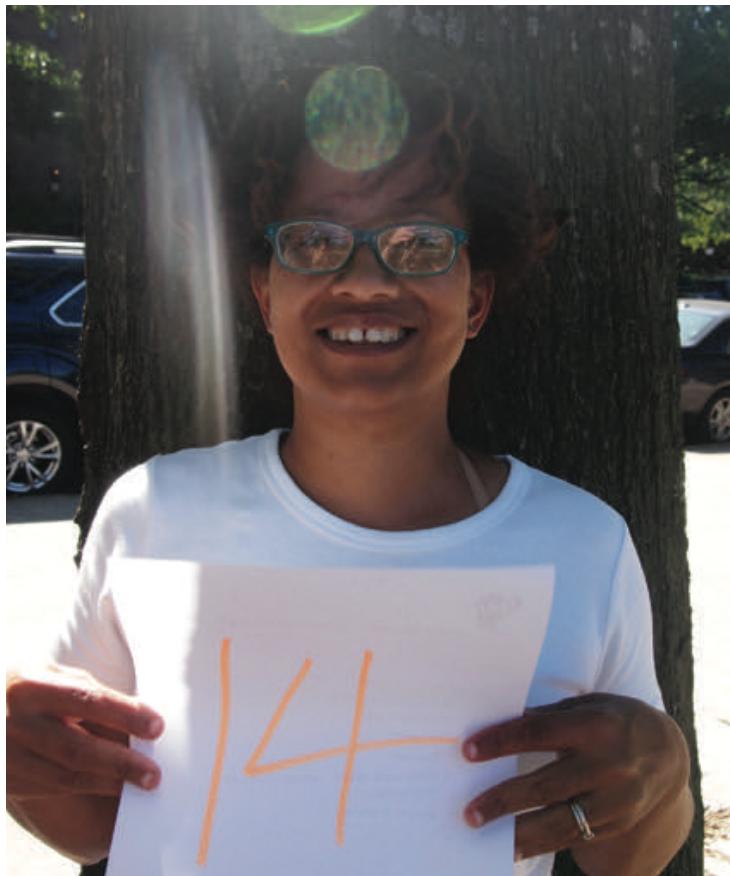
I want to see all colors of people in and outside my home

her:

Feeling connected
people talking
laughter
passion

television off

trees and green spaces outside my window





them:

our home is happy because we have what we have wanted

we are blessed
to be in this community

we have peace and joy

them:

a sense of comfort, safety, *physical beauty*

feeling at ease with neighbors and happy to come home

add to it an appreciation of the diversity of the people

a *richness* of cultures, language, food





them:

begins with an *openness* of love
between those who live there
finding that to be *grateful* for everyday

expressing and feeling a sense of *respect* and *admiration*
for one another
humor
lightness of spirit to *soothe*
a troubled spirit

communication

getting to know our neighbors is just the best part of our community

them:

living in harmony
with our loved ones
love, respect
safe, welcome
surrounded by friends, family, neighbors, four-legged friends

a diverse community such as Jackson Heights where we currently reside

cozy, special
gathering
sharing
memories





peace
serenity

the community is harmonious and friendly

a happy house
people are nice to each other, love each other

more plants
not to be polluted
more walking than driving





a refuge from the world

I'm in the community, but can also be separate from it

a sense of comfort, safety, physical beauty

you come home any time, *midnight, morning, evening*
and you feel safe and happy

it doesn't matter if the house is big or small

a helpful and respectful community
good communication with neighbors
parks and gyms are needed for physical fitness
green areas
neat
clean



my son
cleanliness, warmth, good food

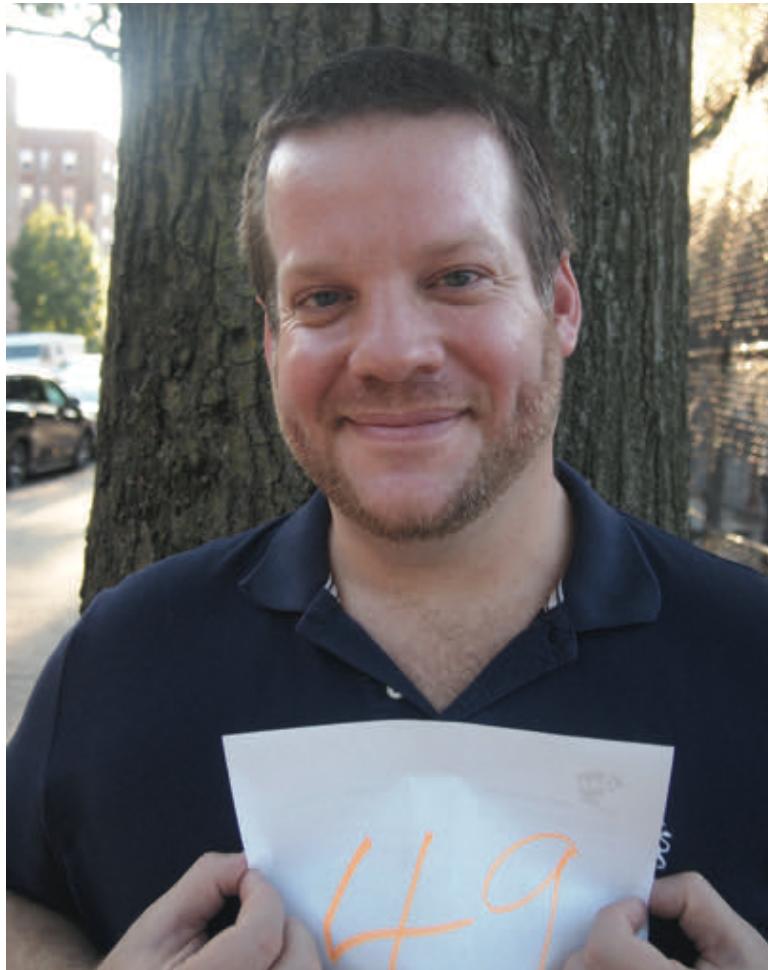
I appreciate a community where my son feels *safe* and has a place to play
without judgment
from complaints about being
too loud or too rambunctious or touching things or playing ball

he can make friends from all backgrounds and income levels



what makes home happy
the amazing creatures I share home with

to go deeper
home is a safe place from the intensity
and the strangely empowering anonymity of NYC
Queens has always been a respite for me
from the insanity that is this city
it is where I go to
unwind, recalibrate *quiet down*





*comfort, space, personal things
near my friends, family, pets*

a real neighborhood with real food

I can feel at peace

home provides a sense of security and comfort

I am free to be myself

it is impossible to really know if my neighbor's homes are happy

we interact in the public sphere

in stores and playgrounds

at school and on sidewalks

the stresses that might make a home unhappy

are *hidden* from view

our community in Queens is very diverse

most days, harmony reigns

despite vast differences

living here gives me *hope* for the world





clean
and big

anybody who comes over must always feel comfortable

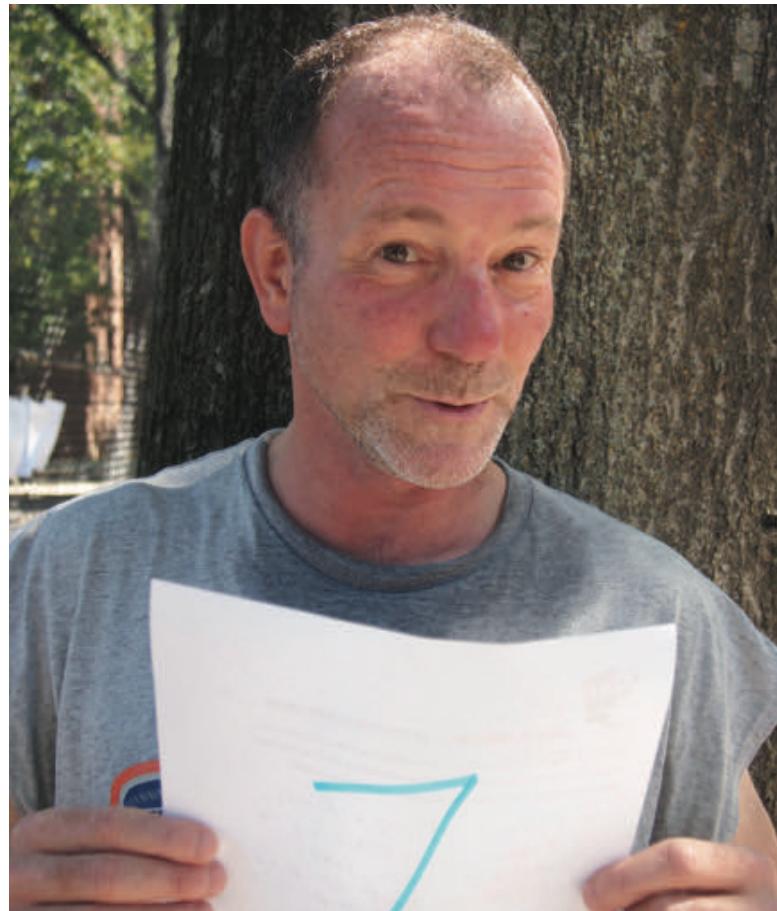
there are a lot of friendly people in this community

from my point of view, it is very clean here

smell of cooking, fabric softener, Murphy's oil soap

a place to keep my bike

a place to keep my kids





as I get older,
my home is a place primarily of *refuge*
not necessarily peace and tranquility,
simply a *safe* place

I've felt peaceful co-existence in Jackson Heights

at times
seeing trees out each of my windows
adds a small sense of peacefulness
transitory
but enjoyed for the moment

the brief burst
of bright red and orange
at my window
Japanese elm each fall

respect, kindness, responsibility
towards all living creatures

love, patience, understanding
a caring family
helping one another

if we bring this into our community
we help build
a happy environment





a place to be
relaxed, myself, loved



her:

everyone does their part to make the home comfortable

him:

*taking turns
listening to each other*

her:

peaceful light colorful comfortable warm

him:

a peaceful and quiet *ish* place
everyone feels happy
most of the time





a place where everyone can be themselves
and be met with love and understanding at least
most of the time

a space to care for others
relax, rejuvenate

my community contributes by being a place of
meaningful relationships with neighbors

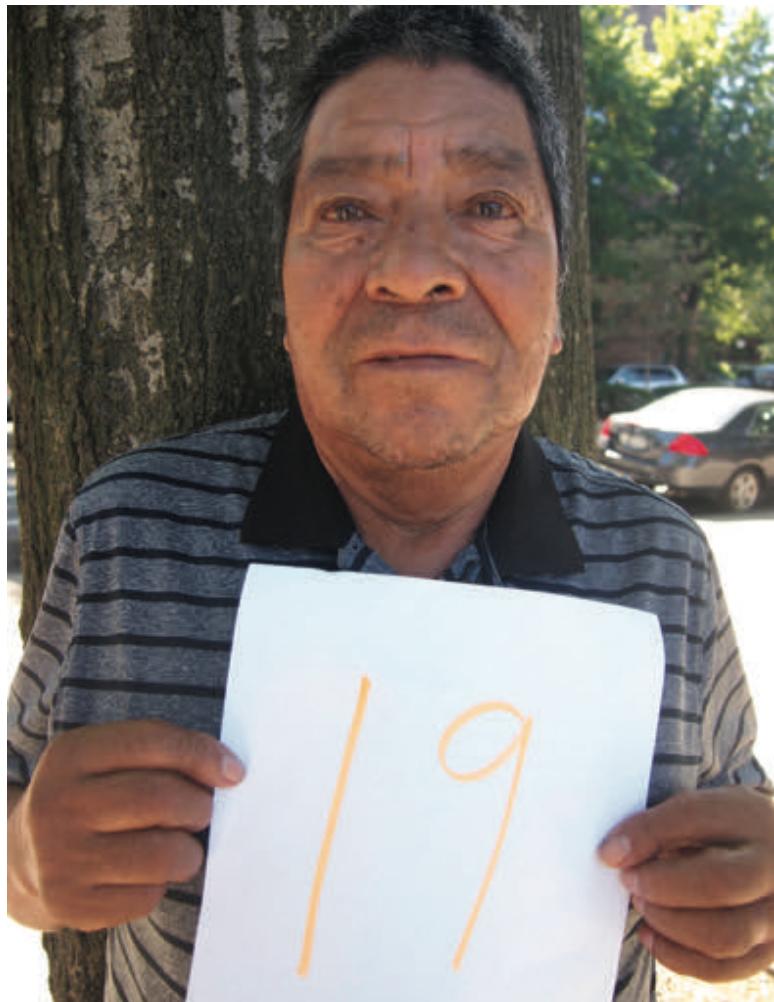
good food, amenities, conveniences
for life

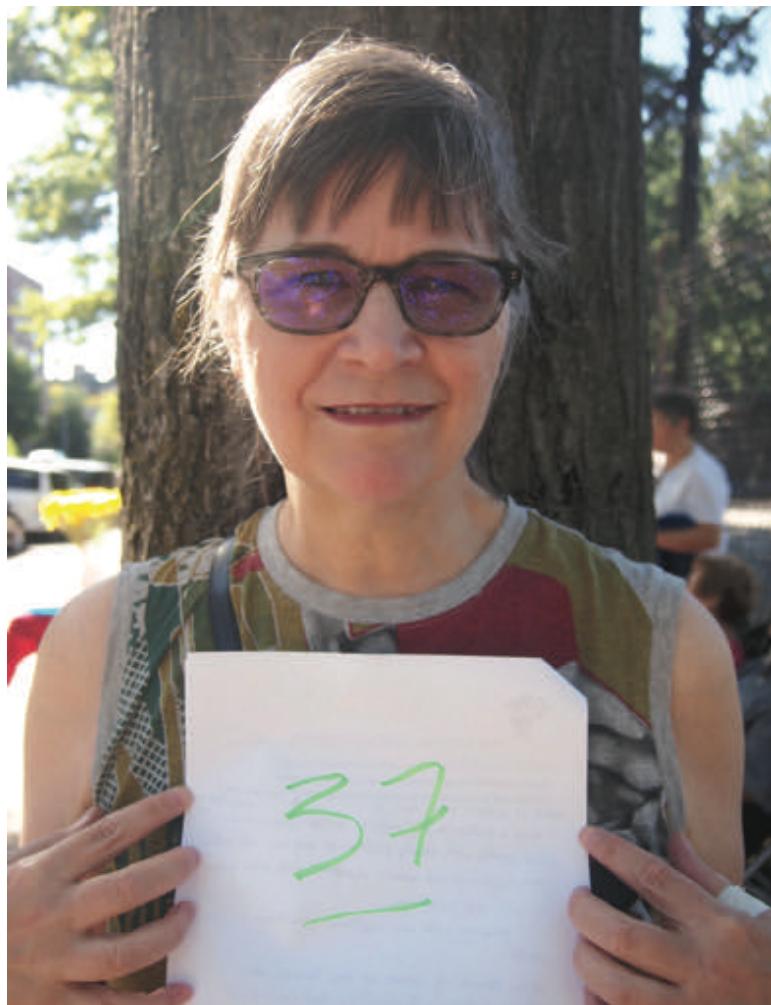
Para vivir felizmente como parejas entendiendo a los demás

to live happily as couples understanding others

Además, dentro de la comunidad, respetando a las personas que son bilingües

also, within the community respecting people who are bilingual





home is where the art is

I have a section on my website called “happy homes”
that started with family pictures of my own artwork
younger siblings, nieces, nephews
who grew up with my paintings

I think of home as the house my parents built in Rochester

still hold a dream of building
my own home, studio
after forty years of moving from place to place
still a nomad without affordable space

I grew up with my mother's paintings on the walls

where the deer and the antelope play

I am in continuous search of a home
I require privacy

quiet, but not too quiet

I like having neighbors
a place with both inside and outside access

the closest I've come was an apartment in Cleveland
with a fireplace, balcony full of plants, a view of a lawn
with a beautiful sea captain's house

the second best place was a loft in Greenpoint
with huge windows, a view of Manhattan and enjoyment of
watching tugboats and ducks on Newtown Creek

now in Jackson Heights I work in the garden
appreciate the diversity
people here are respectful
I wish for a community center so that the diverse population
could come together

I am drawn to movies, art and architecture that deal with home
I have on and off explored home *in my art*





quiet, comfortable, safe, private
for me to exist freely

to pursue what is important to me
enjoy the company I choose
in a diverse neighborhood

with some *gardens* and *green spaces*

Jackson Heights seems like an ideal community
for my idea of a happy home
incredibly diverse
with lots of well-kept gardens
a farmer's market
community supported agriculture

I can find the company of like-minded people

work to make the community better

experience other cultures

my home is my sanctuary
not a place to crash, but to
spend time
when I don't have to be somewhere else

the quiet, view, pets
access to creativity
sewing, painting, writing

knowledge that it is a safe, secure space

I love NYC *but*

having a place to escape enables survival
my community Washington Heights provides this
quiet

massive green space
for contemplation
a strong sense of community *to dip in and out of*
how anonymous do you want to be?

to live in NYC, not just survive it



Please answer these two questions:

What makes a happy home for you? What is your understanding of this in your community?

¿Qué hace un hogar feliz para usted? ¿Cuál es su entendimiento de esto en su comunidad?

योगाडि याकम ए सापि लाम घर देते? योगाडि २ ईउत आसाउडोहाडिं अज टीक घेर ईउत कमिडेनिलि?

屋根とか天井から木彫れかがない家が欲しいです。

周りに住んでいる人が安全でないと良いです。

冬はあたたかく、夏は涼しいといいため。

収納庫ある家に住みたい。庭で野菜が作れていい。

エレベーターがあり218室、10階、2階、3階、

ランゲージバー地下にあります。

駅から近く、ERが近くは3分でいける。

老後安心な所が良いです。どこか良い所があります。

賃料が高めで困ります。どこに住むかは子供の教育や学校次第だと思います。それが高校を卒業してから

an apartment with no roof leak
in a safe neighborhood
comfortable to live when I get old
close from a subway stop and ER
I don't know which neighborhood it should be?

lots of storage
on a second or third floor
in a building equipped with an elevator

a garden where I can grow vegetables

cool in summer and warm in winter

Jo Beth:

together regardless of where that home may be

love, beliefs, goals, challenges, the everyday accomplishments, joys and woes

safe, respectful

to grow

Christine:

safe, comfortable

able to be myself

those I love feel the same way

not everyone has what they need

I am blessed that in the present moment I do

JOH:

quiet

indoor plumbing

ss:

what you read how you breathe how you leave

the whole creation

the entire universe

my ground in the world

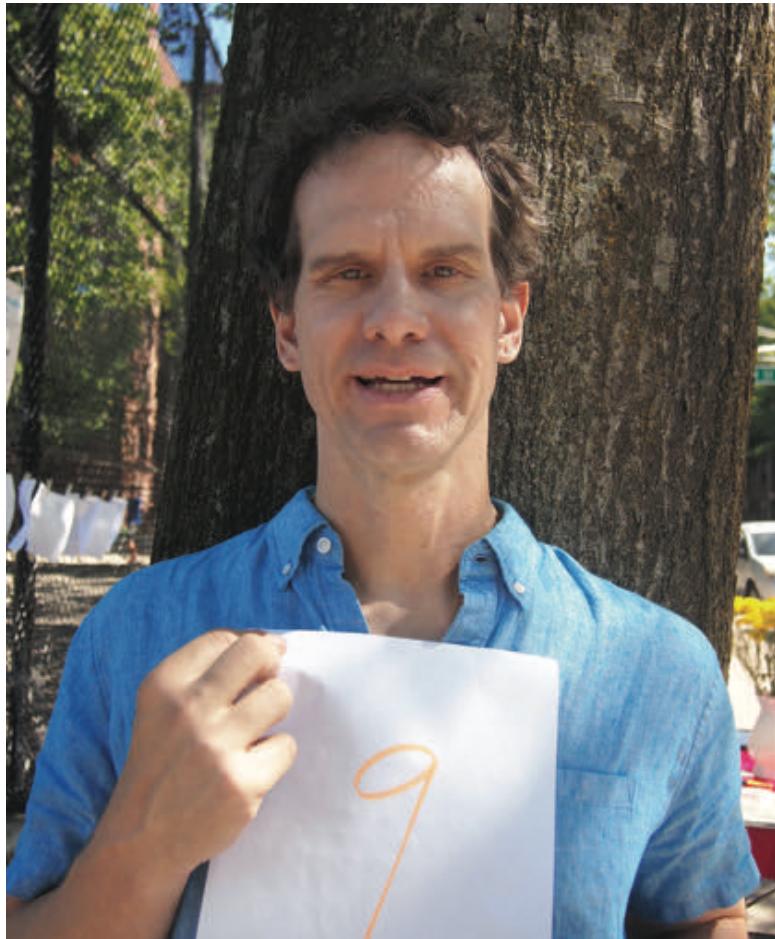
how I cultivate my awareness within the gift of each moment of breath there

my willingness to be vulnerable, open

trusting in sensing what's there

the act of how I experience a place

not the place



wherever my wife is, is my home

regardless of conditions
we met in our building where we live
so, the community has been an integral part of this

I suppose,
because of this,
the people in my home
are what makes my home
home



List of Responders

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Linda Greene, <i>page 52</i>	Flushing, Queens

HOW QUIET BUT NOT
SILENT IT IS WELCOMING
EACH FALL PEOPLE OUT WITH NO
ANSWERING WHAT IS THINKING THAN DRIVING
THE ANTELOPE PIECE
FULL MOON STREET
KITCHEN WINDOW
FANS DRAWS

IS THERE MORE
DRIVING THE DEE
LOPE PLAY SEEING
N STREAMING THRO
WINDOW GREEN SPAC
CY PEACE TAKING T
ATION MOSTLY AGAIN
DREAM OF BUILDIN
RT IS EAGER STON
GRACE IN DWELL

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The Painting—*Grace in Dwelling*

What makes a happy home for me?

My essential concerns: light, space, time slowed, quiet, beauty, books to read, art, gardens, green in my windows, music, movement, company, conversation, love. The imagery in the watercolor is a metaphor for these fundamentals set beneath an umbrella of safekeeping.

Papyrus plants to the left of the watercolor signify knowledge and the equivalent of the book. The eight petals of the lotus flowers at top symbolize cosmic harmony just as there are eight major points of the compass in space.

The plant simultaneously bears the three stages of its development (bud, flower and seed) suggesting time past, present and to come.

The pink lotus is a solar emblem.

The tree connecting these plants takes its shape from a tree in Travers Park, Jackson Heights (see page 7 for my photograph of this tree), but has been made somewhat generic to exemplify life constantly developing while bringing all the elements together.

The tree is an image of relationships. It is a central pillar which holds up the house supporting the soul. Poised up in my green tree is a red parasol.

Green is the color of water, while red is the color of fire. Green is the color of hope, of strength and of longevity. Green offers tranquility. It is the color of knowledge. Bright red spurs to action and casts its glow on all things as the sun does. Its strength is the color of beauty, generosity, love and conjures up notions of heat, intensity and true-heartedness.

The parasol is a motif of heaven. It shades against the sunlight and elegantly offers protection, while encouraging learning that is integrated within oneself.

The imagery offers a picture of my grace in dwelling.



Grace in Dwelling, watercolor/graphite on paper (first layer), 5' x 3', 2017



Grace in Dwelling, details, watercolor/graphite on paper, (first layer)







Grace in Dwelling, watercolor/graphite on paper with vellum overlay, 5'x3', 2017;
left: detail, Grace in Dwelling, watercolor layer

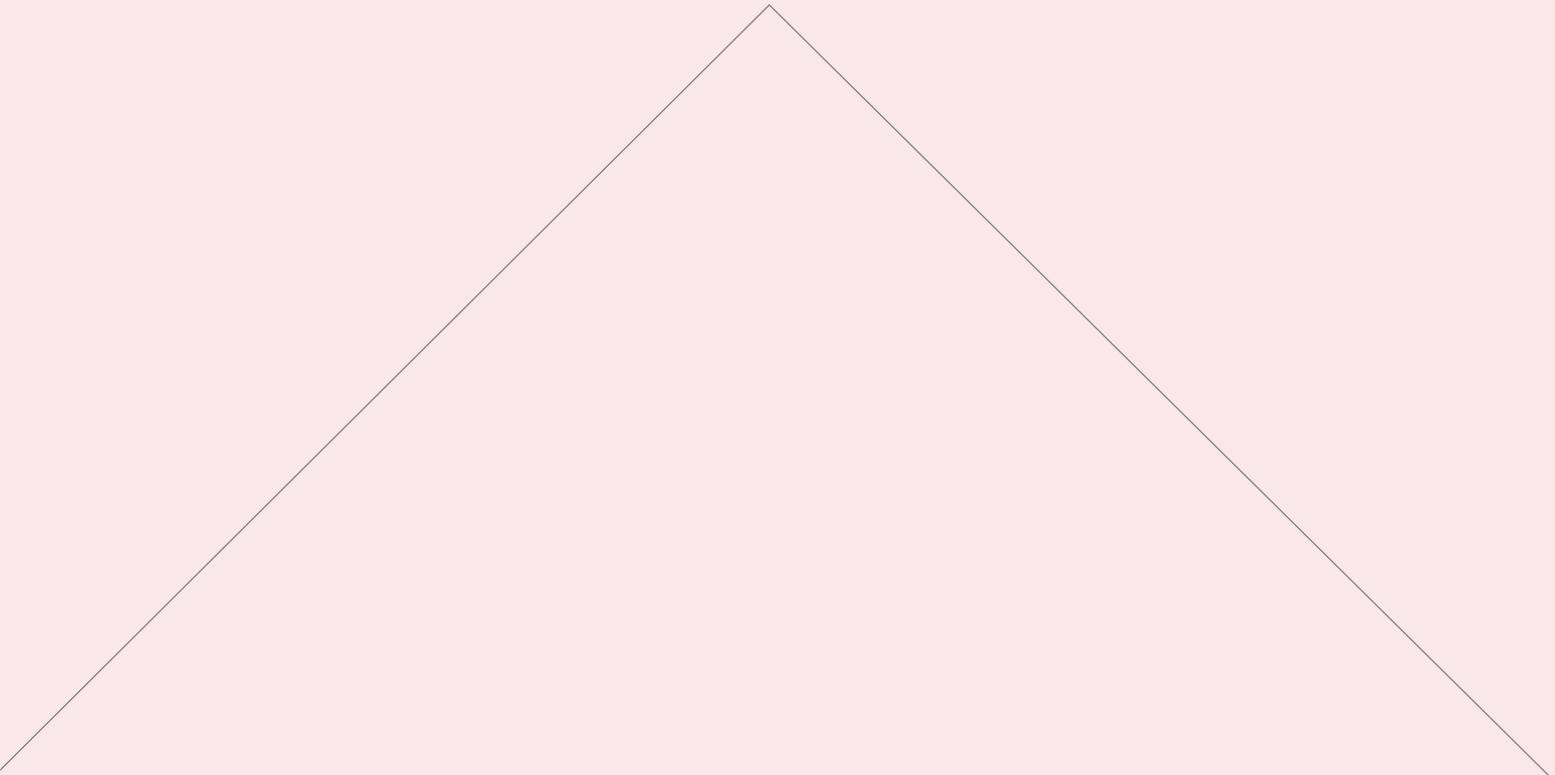


Grace in Dwelling, watercolor/graphite on paper with vellum overlay

IF YOU BUILT YOUR LIFE LIKE A HOUSE
TO AND FROM AND IN WHERE MY KEYS FIT COOL
IN THE SUMMER AND WARM IN THE WINTER SAFE LIGHT SPACE
FLOWERS IN THE MIDDLE CLEAN FLOORS
THE TRUSTY TOOLBOX YOUR BOOK AND PILLOW QUIET BUT NOT TOO QUIET
DANCING IT IS WELCOME JAPANESE ELM EACH FALL PEOPLE SEE
PEOPLE OUT WITH NODS TRUSTING
SENSING WHAT IS THERE MORE
WALKING THAN DRIVING THE DEER
AND THE ANTELOPE PLAY SEEING
THE FULL MOON STREAMING THROUG

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WALKING THAN DRIVING THE DEER
AND THE ANTELOPE PLAY SONGS
THE FULL MOON STREAMING THROUGH
THE KITCHEN WINDOW HOLLOW SPACES
A DOUBLE PRIVACY PLATE TAKING TURN IS
DEEP CONVERSATION HOSTESS AS
SHE HOLDS A DREAM OF JOURNEY
WHERE THE ART IS LEADERSHIP
BUT BOLDLY IN SHADOW IN THE VELVET

Grace in Dwelling, detail, watercolor/graphite on vellum (top layer)



Grateful acknowledgment of Christopher O'Leary and Ingrid Menenedez for their help during the Grace in Dwelling Intervention on September 23, 2017. Thanks to Queens Art Intervention (QAI)/RPGA Studio and Yvonne Shortt for selecting and supporting this project. *Grace In Dwelling*, the book, was printed for the occasion of the Queens Museum exhibition of the QAI 2017 artists, December 11, 2017 through January 19, 2018.

