

Jill Sebastian

Growing up in several towns of the rustbelt, Jill Sebastian's first awareness of the impact of art was seeing a lone woman at a steel mill paint a mural to celebrate the conclusion of long, bitter labor strikes. Sebastian was a restless student who attended three undergraduate colleges, then integrated sculpture and film studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for an MFA. In



1985, she received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. Sebastian's early solo exhibition at Berth Urdang Gallery blended unraveled narratives with cinematic ideas made physical in text-clad sculpture. Subtle questions of place, perception and movement continue to permeate her installations, drawings and interdisciplinary collaborations shown in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and other cities in the USA. The first installation in The Milwaukee Art Museum's new Calatrava-designed addition was her site-specific collaboration with Wild Space Dance Company (2005). Sebastian's public works include a playable musical fence in New Orleans; literary portals for the Midwest Airlines Convention (now Delta) Center and a streetscape for Madison, WI. Her commission for the New South Campus Union at UW-

Madison integrates environmental questions into the fabric of a building meant to last 100 years. Currently, Jill Sebastian is a Professor of Sculpture at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design. More information is available at jillsebastian.com.