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## WNYC News

# Queens Museum Gets Very Real With Homeless Art

Friday, February 07, 2014

By [Gisele Regatao](#) : Executive Producer, WNYC News



FE



Performance by the LAPD, or the Los Angeles Poverty Department, at the Queens Museum (Deborah Solomon)

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A gallery at the [Queens Museum](#) is stocked with 22 bunk beds. That's where the audience sits, for a performance by formerly homeless people about their experiences in jail.

The project is by the LAPD — the Los Angeles Poverty Department. WNYC's art critic Deborah Solomon says the piece represents the height of activist art — and the polar opposite of Manhattan museums' goal of attracting tourists.

In this interview, Solomon explained that while the Queens Museum is trying to serve its local community with pieces like the LAPD's, the Museum of Modern Art is going in a very different direction. "Museums are supposed to do two things: One is preserve objects, and the other is engage the community," she said. "A museum like MoMA is no longer engaging the community; it's just engaging construction companies, to put up more space."

**GUESTS:** [Deborah Solomon](#)

**HOSTED BY:** [Soterios Johnson](#)

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**GISELE REGATAO, Executive Producer, WNYC News**

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Gisele Regatao is the Executive Producer for WNYC News, where she oversees a team of producers and



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### Barbara Pryor

Deborah, you're correct, and there is also Corona, the Rockaways, and other neighborhoods. If you contact me at bpryoresq@yahoo.com with your contact info, we'll keep you informed.




Feb. 07 2014 01:09 PM

  Score: 0/0 

### Deborah Solomon from WNYC

To Barbara Pryor -- Thanks for your gracious comments. By the way, do you know which neighborhoods in Queens have the heaviest concentration of artists? It used to be (I think) Long Island City and Astoria, but I hear that lately there has been a lot of spillover out of Bushwick and into Ridgewood.



Feb. 07 2014 12:50 PM

  Score: 0/0 

### Barbara Pryor

Deborah, thanks for crossing the river to our fabulous QMA! Queens is full of art and artists, so as Board president of Queens Council on the Arts, I invite you to return soon.

Feb. 07 2014 12:30 PM

  Score: 0/0 