



BIO

Originally from Hamden, CT, [Dean Ruck](#) has lived and worked in Houston since 1987. The artist works in all mediums, creating large and small sculptures, ambitious installations, and unconventional two-dimensional "drawings." His work is in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the City of Houston, Cranbrook Art Museum, and numerous private collections. As a truly multi-media artist his work follows these premises:

Work externally - be involved with the earth, time, space, light, and materials, not the self.

Work intelligently and intuitively - consider the circumstances of the project and trust your instincts and skill.

Be cognizant that the symbiotic and essential relationship between the audience and the art.

Use the full gamut of the sensory experience as materials.

Work / Labor / Explore - discovery and process is the catapult to affirmation and meaning.

Ruck is also half of the internationally recognized collaborative team [Havel Ruck Projects](#) (HRP) with Dan Havel. *"Havel Ruck Projects is the epitome of public art and place-making in the 21st Century. Their projects ask questions about stories of place, histories, and communities, rather than simply offering answers. In an environment where architecture is being torn down as quickly as it is put up, Havel Ruck Projects' extraordinary installations bring back to life the cultural and/or historical characteristics of a community, which are being lost at an alarming rate. Their projects challenge the unforgiving nature of urban development, as well as inspire a new generation of artists to engage with Houston's history and make public art that is greater than the sum of its parts."* - Jennifer Ash, Executive Director, Art League Houston

EDUCATION

- 1987 **Master of Fine Arts** Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- 1984 **Bachelor of Fine Arts** University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
- 1982 **South France Studio Program** Cleveland Institute of Art, Lacoste, France

PROJECTS / INSTALLATIONS / EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 **True North Anniversary Exhibition**, Houston, TX
- 2022 **Succuro Square** Succuro Retreat Center, East Meredith, NY
- Vernoculus** Notsuoh, Houston, TX
- 2019 **Ourglass** Hacienda del Sol, Tucson, AZ
- 2018 **Open House** (HRP) Sam Houston Park, Houston, TX
- Ripple** (HRP) Cherryhurst House, Houston, TX
- 40 Years of Discovery: Gifts of Clint Willour**, Museum of Fine Arts Houston
- 2016 **Sharp** (HRP) Sharpstown, Houston, TX
- 2015 **With The Grain** (HRP) Houston Community College Central Art Gallery, Houston, TX
- Poydras Corridor Sculpture Exhibition**, Sculpture for New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
- Houston Artist Hall of Fame II** (HRP) Houston Fine Arts Fair, Houston, TX
- 2014 **Three Houses** (HRP) Art League Houston, Artists of Year Exhibition
- True North** Heights Boulevard Sculpture Group Show, Houston, TX

- 2012 **Western Sequels** (HRP) Art from the Lone Star State, Athens School of Fine Art, Athens, Greece Istanbul, Turkey
- 2011 **Torrent** (HRP) public art sculpture, City of Houston Permit and Licensing Building
- 2011 **Fifth Ward Jam** (HRP) temporary public art project, Fifth Ward, Houston, TX
- 2010 **Abilene Reunion Exhibition: 30 Years Revisited** Abilene Cultural Affairs Council, Abilene, TX
Art on the Green Kemp Center for the Arts, Wichita Falls
Snack Projects Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX
- 2009 **Dean Ruck** Devin Borden Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston, TX
Architectural Euthanasia (HRP) Houston AIA, Houston Architecture Center, Houston, TX
Give and Take (HRP) a two venue installation as part of the exhibit *No Zoning-Artists Engage Houston*, Contemporary Art Museum Houston, Houston, TX
- 2008 **False Space and Time in the Apartment** (HRP) CentralTrak, Dallas, TX
25th Anniversary of Core Program Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston, TX
- 2007 **Artadia at DiverseWorks... Reprised** DiverseWorks, Houston, TX
- 2006 **Dean Ruck: Material Drawings** Devin Borden Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston, TX
Texas Sculpture Survey Williams Tower, Houston, TX
- 2005 **Inversion** (HRP) Art League Houston, Houston, TX
Scatterboats (HRP) Estudio Abierto, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Apt. Suite (HRP) Multiple site specific installations at abandoned apartment complex, Houston, TX
- 2004 **Project Artist Smoky Hill River Festival** Salina, KS
- 2003 **MASS / In Between / Void** Poissant Gallery, Houston, TX
White Hot Devin Borden Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2002 **Systems Order Nature** Devin Borden Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston, TX
Hard Core Galveston Arts Center, Galveston, TX
- 2000 **Four Artists from Houston** Old Jail Art Center, Albany, TX
20th Anniversary Exhibition Connemara Conservancy, Plano, TX
TreeHouse Round Twelve Project Row Houses, Houston, TX
East Texas Sculptors Houston Sculpture 2000, One Houston Center, Houston, TX
Burn It Arlington Museum of Art, Arlington, TX
- 1999 **Untitled** an outdoor sculpture, Devin Borden Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston, TX
- 1998 **Big Bubble, Site Seeing, Sounds of the Past** Sesquicentennial Park Project Artist: three permanent outdoor public art works commissioned by Central Houston Civic Improvement, Inc., and the City of Houston, TX.
New Acquisitions Museum of Fine Arts Houston, TX
- 1997 **Biennial Exhibition of Public Art** Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, NY. A temporary collaborative piece with Rick Lowe and D.A. McNulty.
Works on Paper Devin Borden Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston, TX
Paper Rudolph Poissant Gallery, Houston, TX
- 1996 **Dean Ruck Installation** Devin Borden Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston, TX
Imprint, Ideas for Public Art Barbara Davis Gallery/Pennzoil Place, Houston, TX
Meta(morph)osis and Bio(morph)ism in Contemporary Sculpture Curator: Francis Colpitt, Blue Star Artspace, San Antonio, TX
Eye Shutter Houston International Foto Fest: Downtown site projects, Houston, TX
- 1995 **Poor House: An installation by Dean Ruck**, City Gallery at Chastain, Atlanta, GA
O House (HRP), a house installation with Kate Petley Houston, TX
- 1994 **Dean Ruck** Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston, TX
Uncommon Objects Barry Whistler Gallery, Dallas, TX
- 1993 **Sculptors and Paper** Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston, TX
- 1992 **A Case for Art** Houston Downtown Public Library, Houston, TX

- 1991 **Connemara Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit** Connemara Conservancy Plano, TX
Texas Dialogues Blue Star Artspace, San Antonio, TX, Arlington Museum of Art, Arlington, TX
- 1990 **Dean Ruck** Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston, TX
Abilene Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit Abilene, TX
Landscapes DiverseWorks and the Houston International Festival Houston, TX
- 1989 **New American Talent** Laguna Gloria Art Museum, Austin, TX
- 1988 **Metaphor and the Intention of External Meaning** Indianapolis Art League, IN
Synergy '88 Museum of Fine Arts, Glassell School of Art, Houston, TX

AWARDS / GRANTS / FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019 *National Recognition to the Best in Public Art Projects*, Open House by Havel Ruck Projects, Americans for the Arts Public Art Review
- 2018 *National Recognition to the Best in Public Art Projects*, Sharp by Havel Ruck Projects, Americans for the Arts Public Art Review
- 2015 *Inducted into the Houston Artist Hall of Fame* - Havel Ruck Projects, Houston Fine Arts Fair
- 2014 *Texas Artists of the Year* - Havel Ruck Projects, Art League Houston
- 2009 *Artisan Honor Award* - Havel Ruck Projects, Texas Society of Architects
- 2008 *Artist Neighborhood Project Grant* - Havel Ruck Projects, Houston Arts Alliance
Artists of the Year Award - Havel Ruck Projects, Houston Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
Project Grant - Havel Ruck Projects, Houston Architecture Foundation, Houston AIA
- 2006 *Individual Artist Grant* - Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County, Houston, TX
Artadia Finalist Jury Award
Distinguished Achievement Award - Havel Ruck Projects Houston Chapter American Institute of Architects
Houston Municipal Arts Commission Grant - Havel Ruck Projects
- 2005 *Project Award: Inversion* - Havel Ruck Projects, Houston Mayor Bill White & American Institute of Architects/Houston
Project Assistance Grant - Havel Ruck Projects, Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County
Project Assistance Grant - Havel Ruck Projects, Texas Commission for the Arts
- 1997 *Creative Artist Grant* Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County, Houston, TX
- 1995 *Project Grant "O House"*- Havel Ruck Projects, Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County
- 1991 *Arch and Ann Giles Kimborough Fund Award*, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
Connemara Conservancy Artist Award, Connemara Conservancy, Dallas, TX
- 1990 *Landscapes Project Grant*, Houston International Festival, Houston, TX
Creative Artist Program Grant, Cultural Arts Council of Houston, TX
- 1987-89 *Core Artist-In-Residence Fellowship* Glassell School of Art, Houston, TX
Mid-America Arts Alliance Grant National Endowment for the Arts
Juror's Award "New American Talent", John Caldwell, juror
- 1986 *Departmental Assistant Award* Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- 1984 *Talent and Creativity Scholarship* University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2022 Gay Giordono / Paul Gunther, *Illusions in Design: New Trends in Architecture and Interiors*; Rizzoli New York
- 2020 Andrew Blauvelt, *With Eyes Opened: Cranbrook Academy of Art Since 1932*, Cranbrook Art Museum
- 2018 David Miller, *Tiny and Expansive*, Rice Design Alliance, 16 July
Tarra Gaines, *Housing Our History, Open House*, Culture Map Houston, 12 July
Christiana Sullivan, *Open House in Sam Houston Park*, Texas Architect, August issue
Catherine Ansporn, *Cherryhurst House Makes Ripples*, Paper City, February issue

- Donna Tennant, *Ripple at Cherryhurst House*, Arts & Culture Magazine, February Issue
Jack Murphy, *Havel Ruck Projects' Ripple*, Texas Architect, May/June
- 2017 Robert Boyd, *Sharp by Havel+Ruck in Houston*, Glasstire, November
David Miller, *It Creates its Own Light*, Offcite Magazine, October issue
- 2016 Rebecca Roke, *Nanotechture: Tiny Built Things*, Phaidon Press
- 2014 Jim Edwards, *The Poetics of Memory and Space*, Art League Houston Artist of Year Catalog
Molly Glentzner, *Three Houses* review, Houston Chronicle, 3 October
- 2013 *Landscape Installation Art* Tianjin Ifengspace Media, (published in Mandarin and English)
- 2012 Jeff Huebner, *The Power of Impermanence*, Public Art Review, Fifth Ward Jam, fall/winter
Fatos Ustek, *Unexpected Encounters*, book featuring Inversion project. Published in Portuguese and English
Ripley's Believe it or Not – Inversion project
- 2011 Lisa Gray, *Artists turn bungalow into 'Fifth Ward Jam' installation*, Houston Chronicle, Sept. 30, (photo)
The Men Who Make Houses Explode (All for the Sake of Art), U.K. Daily Mail, Oct. 11
Strikingly True - Ripleys Believe it Or Not, 2011, Inversion House,
- 2009 Toby Kamps and Meredith Goldsmith, *No Zoning: Artist Engage Houston* exhibition catalogue Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, TX
Brilliant Installation Artworks Around the World, Saenggakjaeng-I (The Big Thinker), Korean Children's Magazine, No. 131
Douglas Britt, *CAMH No Zoning touts City's Art Permeability*, Houston Chronicle, 1 May
Lisa Gray, *After the Whirlwind*, Houston Chronicle, 6 February
- 2008 Archistorm Magazine, Fall issue
- 2007 Robert Klanten, *Lukas Feirlless Space Craft, Fleeting Architecture and Hideouts*, photo essay on "Inversion"
- 2006 Liz Ward, *O: A House Installation*, Alison de Lima Greene *To Continue*, Gulf Coast, Vol. 18, # 1, Winter / Spring
Arthur Worthmann, *The Implosion*, Mark Magazine, Issue #2
- 2005 Patrick Peters, *Aesthetic of Demolition* CITE Magazine, Winter issue
Patrick Peters, *Curb a Peel Along Montrose* Texas Architect, July / August
Patricia C. Johnson, *Bringing Down the House* Houston Chronicle, 19 May
Kelly Klaasmeyer, *Tunnel of Love* Houston Press, 23 June
Vivian Urfeig, *El cine, la musica y la plastica de fiesta en Puerto Madero*, Clarin, 22 November
Diana Lyn Roberts, *Dan Havel and Dean Ruck: Inversion*, Artlies, Issue 47
- 2004 David Clouston, *Art car to crash river festival party*, Salina Journal, 7 June
- 2002 Garrison Roots, *Designing the World's Best Public Art*, Images Publishing Group
- 2000 Tom Sime, *Connemara at 20*, Dallas Morning News, 12 March
Alison de Lima Greene, *Texas: 150 Works from the Museum of Fine Arts*, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Harry N Abrams, publisher
Frances Colpitt, *Report from Houston: Space City Takes Off*, Art in America, October
Laura Lark, *Reviews: Southwest; Houston*, Art Papers, September / October
Michael Daniel, *Connemara Collaboration, Art/ Nature / Man*, Art Lies, #27 Summer
Houston Sculpture 2000 Catalogue, 18th International Sculpture Center Conference, June
- 1998 Clifford Pugh and Patricia Johnson, *Bayou Reborn* Houston Chronicle - Zest, 3 May
- 1997 Vivian Raynor, *Sculpture Biennial at Purchase with Pizzazz and Imagination*, New York Times, 12 October
Patricia Phillips, *1997 Biennial Exhibition of Public Art*, Sculpture Magazine, December
Bob Tutt, *Bayou Park to offer a feast for the senses*, Houston Chronicle, 31 May
- 1996 Rudy Sanchez, *Dean Ruck: An Installation*, Devin Borden Hiram Butler Gallery, Artlies, Fall
David M. Freeman, *I Meta Morph on the Bio*, Voices of Art, March/April
Alejandro Diaz, *Morph at Blue Star*, Voices of Art, March/April
- 1995 David A. Moore, *See Ruck City: Avant Garde in the Poor House*, Creative Loafing, 17 June
Jerry Cullum, *City Gallery show reminds of poor house past*, Atlanta Journal - Constitution, 16 June

- Richard Gincel, *No Hiding From History. Exhibit hopes to capture building's charged past*, Atlanta Journal - Constitution, 1 June
- Patricia Johnson, *The Art Shack*, Houston Chronicle, 28 April
- 1994 *Art of Contradiction; Dean Ruck at Hiram Butler*, Houston Press, Susie Kalil, 3-9 February
- Wendy Paris, *Reviews: Houston, TX, Sculpture Magazine*, July-August
- 1993 Susan Chadwick, *Sun-Splashed Gallery Exhibitions a Playful Spirit*, Houston Post, 24 August
- 1992 T.J. Milling, *Little Pigs House Swept Away By Big Bad Flooding*, Houston Chronicle, 25 March
- 1991 Patricia Johnson, *Sculptures Carve Out Position*, Houston Chronicle, 26 September
- Janet Kutner, *Nature Has a Hand in It*, Dallas Morning News, 21 March
- 1990 Susan Chadwick, *Artist, Nature Collaborate on Sculpture*, Houston Post, 31 October
- Bob Latham, *Nelson Park to House Four Sculptures*, Abilene Reporter-News, 22 Sept
- 1989 Patricia Johnson, *Gallery Brings New Art to Old Area*, Houston Chronicle, 29 October
- Mark Smith, *New Talent '89 Works Intrigue and Baffle*, Austin American Statesman, 11 May
- Todd Matus, *Dean Ruck; Dialogue-An Art Journal*, May/June
- Susan Chadwick, *The Core of Glassell*, Houston Post, 2 April
- 1988 Steve Mannheimer, *Dean Ruck on a Roll*, Indianapolis Star, 7 August
- Marion Gamel, *Ruck Forces Viewer to Respond to his Creation*, Indianapolis News, 21 July
- Vincent Carducci, *Five Room/Five Artists*, New Art Examiner, June

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE / COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2021- Team Member, True North Heights Boulevard Sculpture Tour
- 2000-19 Senior Project Manager, *University of Houston System, Facilities Planning and Construction*, Houston, TX
Full Time Exempt professional position. Duties include turnkey management of all types of construction and renovation projects across the UH System: client relations, project development, service procurement, contract implementation, architectural and life safety standards review, construction supervision, invoice / documentation processing, project closeout. Approx. \$500M of construction services over 19 years of service.
- 2002 Artist Selection Panelist, *Phoenix International Airport*, Phoenix, AZ
- 2001-09 Board of Directors, *Avenue Community Development Corporation*, Houston, TX
Avenue CDC is a non-profit, affordable housing and community development organization.
- 2000 Co-Curator, *Frame*, Lawndale Art Center, (April) with Daryl Lauster
- 2000 Peer Review Panelist, *Cultural Arts Council of Houston / Harris County*, Houston, TX
- 1999 Peer Review Panelist, *Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County*, Houston TX
- 1998-20 Adjunct Visiting Instructor, *University of Houston Art Department*, Houston, TX
- 1997-00 Project Manager / Fabricator, *S.A.Y. Terrazzo Designs*, Lafayette, CO; by contract
- 1997 Public Art Competition Panelist, *Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center Expansion Project*, San Antonio, TX (ongoing)
- 1994 Producer/Curator, *Chain Reaction/Living Space*; Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX
- 1993 Vice President, *Buffalo Bayou Artpark*, Houston, TX
- 1992 GAG Founding Member, *Grassroots Arts Group*, Houston TX
- 1991-99 Board of Directors, *Lawndale Arts Center*; Houston, TX
- 1990-94 Adjunct Visiting Instructor, *University of Houston Sculpture Department*, Houston, TX
- 1991-00 Shop Steward, *University of Houston Art Department*, Houston, TX
- 1988 Workshop Instructor, *Glassell School of Art*, Houston, TX
- 1987- Carpenter, *AREA Projects*, self-employment, Houston, TX