

SilverKris

DISTINCT GEOGRAPHIES

Diversity is key to MoMA's expansion. Here, four recently acquired artists and stand-out talents who represent New York's broader creative field share their personal perspectives on the city and its art scene.



Maren Hassinger

**Sculptor, video and
performance artist**

Maren Hassinger has had a prolific career spanning sculpture, drawings, photography, performance and video. From her 1979 installation in Los Angeles featuring 12 wire-rope "trees" to the 12-minute film in which she learned of and attempted to document her origins (*Birthright*, 2005), her thought-provoking pieces strive to reflect honestly on the world.

The California native and Harlem resident couldn't be more pleased

with the change she sees, not just at MoMa but throughout the city. "It's gratifying that so many artists who have been excluded from the canon are now part of it," she says. "For once, history appears to be more inclusive."

Hassinger notes the city's many museums and creative venues, such as Lincoln Center and the Joyce Theater, have broadened her own practice. "I am a fan of all of the major museums: The Met Breuer, MoMA PS1, special exhibitions at MoMA, The Studio Museum in Harlem and the New Museum," she says.

But just as important are the quiet moments. Hassinger takes time to visit parks across the city, including Marcus Garvey Park, Union Square and Central Park, as well as the local neighbourhood gardens in Harlem, to find peace as well as creative sparks.