

BROOKLYN



What makes someone fascinating? Is it their looks? Their power, unpredictability, dynamism? Their accomplishments? A certain je ne sais quoi? A combination of some of the above?

For the third year in a row we've asked our readers, writers, contributors and friends who they consider to be among the most fascinating people in the borough. And for the third year in row, we're excited to present to you our highly unscientific, definitely incomplete, mostly subjective and thoroughly compelling list: "Brooklyn's 50 Most Fascinating People."

Chances are you don't live in Brooklyn because you find it boring. These are the people who make it unboring. They are the main characters of our communities. They are also the compelling extras, the scene stealers, the freaks, the geeks, the trolls, the agitators and the inspirational. You'll find some names in these pages that you may already know. And there are others you didn't know you needed to know.

And, as we've said in years past, if your own objects of fascination didn't make the cut this year, there's always next.

Jul 6, 2023

PATRICIA CRONIN

Conceptual artist



Why we're fascinated: Because for decades she has been challenging viewers to confront their assumptions about women's experiences. Cronin is best known for "Memorial to a Marriage" at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, a bronze mortuary sculpture created when same-sex marriage was still illegal. It depicts Cronin with her wife, embracing beneath a bedsheet, and sits atop their future burial plot. Arguably the "world's first marriage equality monument," it is both intimate and epic. More recent works — like "Shrine for Girls," which commemorates three groups of young martyrs, and "Aphrodite Reimagined," inspired by a fragmentary first-century broken torso of the goddess — provide vital commentary on how we understand the narratives around women's histories and bodies.

— *Brian Braiker*