

PHILOMENA MARANO

AMERICAN-DREAM-LAND

CONEY ISLAND LIMITED EDITION SERIGRAPHS

Coney Island has been referred to as the *birthplace of popular culture*, the *World's Playground*, and a *symbol of American imagination*. For artist, Philomena Marano, it has been a constant source of inspiration since early childhood. Born in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, Marano lived just six train stops away from Coney Island. She spent her Summer days on the beach, and nights watching the fireworks from her rooftop. In the mid seventies, after graduating Pratt Institute and working as an artist's assistant to noted pop artist Robert Indiana, Marano returned to Coney Island and found most of the amusement area to be a ghostly memory of what once was. This observation compelled her to begin a series of devotional works in cut paper entitled, *American-Dream-Land*. Mixing grittiness and enchantment, highs and lows, fun and fear, Marano infuses personal history within representations of popular culture.

The three images, which mark the beginning of an extensive series, are the only pieces that were translated into limited edition serigraphs. They portray a "recent history" - a suspended or a lost time, when the future of Coney Island and its famed icons were uncertain.

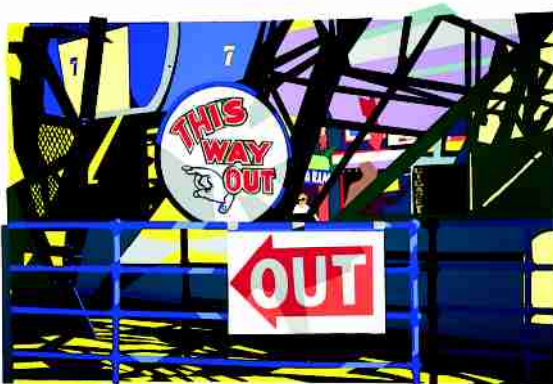
In 1981, Marano co-founded the *Coney Island Hysterical Society* with artist, Richard Eagan in order to preserve the rich visual culture of Coney Island. Her work is included in numerous corporate and private collections including the Brooklyn Historical Society, the Museum of the City of New York and Chase Bank. She was also awarded 1st place in the inaugural *Spirit of Brooklyn* poster competition.



Shooting Gallery #2, 1979
29.5" x 41.25"



Clock & Chute, 1981
29.5" x 41.25"



This Way Out - 1987
29.5" x 41.25"

Limited edition serigraphs are printed with oil base ink on D'arches rag paper.

Shooting Gallery#2 and *Clock & Chute* were originally published by Minotaur Editions and printed by Marie Dormuth, 1979, 1981.

This Way Out was printed by Roni Henning, 1987.

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