

Larry Bell

Improvisations in the Park, 2025

Artist Statement



The Improbable Made Visible By Larry Bell

A fascination with the improbable drives my work: those overlooked elements of perception that art, as my teacher, can reveal. From my early glass cubes of the 1960s to the large “standing walls,” I have explored how material and light interact to create experiences that challenge my expectations.

My sculptures are deeply connected to my own body. The six-by-eight-foot glass panels correspond to my arm span and vertical reach, and even their 500-pound weight reflects what I could physically lift when I was young. This personal scale grounds the work, while its optical effects make it feel almost weightless. This creates tension, known as “vertical thrust,” where a heavy pane standing upright appears to lift itself, seeming both stable and floating.

My creative process relies on improvisation, intuition, and trust. Allowing spontaneity to guide decisions. The sculptures are not just meticulously planned objects, but evolving explorations of the materials I work with.

When installed in a public space like Madison Square Park, the work will share its new life. Spread across the lawns, the panels reflect the trees, sky, and people passing by. They enter into a dialogue with their surroundings, absorbing energy and meaning. This interaction is vital: the sculptures will “have a lot to say when they return home,” transformed by their exposure to thousands of viewers.

If the work invites us to slow down and look closely, it may also invite the viewers to share my epiphany—by isolating moments of reflection, absorption, and transparency, as well as the improbable qualities of my everyday materials. I would hope the sculptures remind the viewer that wonder is still possible, if we are willing to pay attention.