

Benish short bio\_2026

**Barbara Benish** (1958) is a California-born artist and writer whose work has, for over forty years, explored and celebrated our intrinsic connection with the natural world. Her sculptures, paintings, and installations often critique contemporary human practices in the environment, lifting up a more indigenous approach to that relationship, as learned from the artists' formative years in Hawai'i, where she studied Polynesian art and ethnography. Deeply involved with artists in Czechoslovakia in the 1980's underground, Benish (who is part Czech) moved there as Fulbright scholar after the fall of totalitarianism in 1989. She founded the international eco-art center, *ArtMill*, in rural Bohemia, served as an Advisor to U.N.E.P., and is a Fellow at the Social Practice Arts Research Center (University of California, Santa Cruz, USA). Benish has written three books on art, the environment, and farming, and now divides her time between studios in the Czech Republic and Portugal, where her two daughters live. Barbara Benish's visual art has been shown in hundreds of international exhibitions, and at numerous institutions in Europe and the U.S., including P.S.1 Museum (M.o.M.A, New York), the Getty Museum (Los Angeles), the Stadtgeschichtliche Museen (Germany), and the National Gallery (Prague). Her work has been shown twice at the prestigious Venice Biennale, as well as dozens of alternative galleries and exhibition spaces in the U.S., Mexico, and Europe.

Find full C.V. and list of collections at: [www.barbarabenish.com](http://www.barbarabenish.com)

email: [Barbara@artmill.eu](mailto:Barbara@artmill.eu)

[@benishbarbara](#) on Instagram