DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum
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Chakaia Booker: In and Out
DeCordova to host largest-ever exhibition of artist’s work this summer

Lincoln, MA, April 12, 2010 – DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum announces it will host Chakaia Booker: In and Out, May 15-August 29, 2010. The exhibition is organized by DeCordova’s Senior Curator Nick Capasso, and is the largest museum exhibition of the artist’s work to date.

Nick Capasso says, “Organizing this exhibition of Chakaia Booker's work firmly underscores DeCordova's commitment to presenting and interpreting contemporary sculpture, both indoors and outdoors. This show is a milestone for this institution, as we move towards our goal of becoming one of America's pre-eminent centers for the study of three-dimensional work.”

Chakaia Booker: In and Out presents 30 artworks that trace Booker’s career from the early 1990s to the present. Booker’s work will fill DeCordova’s indoor galleries and spill into the Museum’s outdoor terraces, entry plaza, roof, and Sculpture Park to create DeCordova’s largest sculpture exhibition to date. Monumental outdoor sculpture and indoor freestanding sculpture, wall reliefs, pedestal pieces, photographs, and drawings will be featured. “It’s So Hard To Be Green” selected for the 2000 Whitney Biennial, and “No More Milk and Cookies” and “The Conversationalist” currently on view in DeCordova’s Sculpture Park, are included in the exhibition.

Chakaia Booker is one of America’s foremost contemporary sculptors and African-American artists. She is best known for the material and process that characterize the majority of her work: cut-up automobile tires that are reassembled on wooden or steel armatures to create abstract sculptures. Formally, Booker’s work is engaged in dialogue with the history of Western sculpture, from the ancient and classical tradition of the human figure through the geometric and minimal non-objective sculpture of the twentieth century. What sets her work apart, and significantly expands upon the history of sculpture, is her ability—with rubber tires—to create surfaces on objects that resemble skins, feathers, scales, spikes, armor, or attire. The surface patterns created, in concert with their underlying forms, serve as metaphors for a potent range of emotions and psychological states. Common themes in her work include issues of black culture, identity, gender, and ecology.

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Chakaia Booker: In and Out is the first in a planned series of major solo exhibitions of important contemporary sculptors to be held each summer at DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum. Shows like Chakaia Booker: In and Out highlight the institution’s unique indoor and outdoor exhibition environments by bringing sculpture inside the museum space. The exhibitions and recent sculpture acquisitions are part of an effort to move DeCordova toward its goal of becoming a premier American sculpture park by 2020.

The installation of Chakaia Booker: In and Out will follow renovations in the Joyce and Edward Linde Gallery, DeCordova’s main gallery space. David J. Galvin Flooring, Inc. will replace the carpet with a cork underlay and white oak flooring to provide sound absorption and an aesthetically neutral background for DeCordova’s contemporary exhibitions. The renovation is generously funded by The Island Fund of The New York Community Trust.

Chakaia Booker: In and Out is supported by a generous grant from the Lois and Richard England Family Foundation. The exhibition will be accompanied by a full-color 50-page catalogue with a scholarly essay by DeCordova Senior Curator Nick Capasso, Ph.D., a recognized authority on contemporary sculpture. Booker’s work will be photographed in situ in the renovated Linde Gallery and surrounding spaces in the Museum and Park. Production of this catalogue has been supported in part by a generous gift from Pierre Levai, President, Marlborough Gallery, New York, NY.

Exhibition Programming

Educational programs will accompany the exhibition in the Museum galleries and in the Park. An interactive Process Gallery reveals the artist’s working methods and invites visitors to engage in a hands-on experience in manipulating rubber tires. An Artist and Curator Conversation will take place on Saturday, May 22 at 3pm between Chakaia Booker and Senior Curator Nick Capasso. The Eye Wonder program and Family Activity Kits, DeCordova’s free family offerings, will focus on sculpture.

About the artist

Chakaia Booker received an MFA from the City College of New York and a BA from Rutgers University. She has created outdoor installations for Storm King Art Center, the City of Indianapolis, Socrates Sculpture Park, Laumeier Sculpture Park, and NASA. Solo exhibitions of her work have been organized by the Akron Art Museum, the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, the Katonah Museum of Art, Laumeier Sculpture Park and Museum, and the Neuberger Museum of Art at SUNY Purchase. Booker was also included in the 2000 Whitney Biennial. She has received awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Joan Mitchell Foundation, and was an Artist-in-Residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem. Public collections include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Bronx Museum of Art, New Orleans Museum of Art, and the-

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National Museum of Women in the Arts. Chakaia Booker was born in Newark, NJ and currently lives and works in New York, NY and Allentown, PA.

**About DeCordova**

DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum was established in 1950 to educate as broad and diverse a public as possible about American contemporary art. DeCordova’s unique campus features both indoor and outdoor venues, allowing its visitors to celebrate and explore contemporary art across 35 acres. Inside, the Museum features a robust slate of rotating exhibitions and innovative interpretive programming. Outside, DeCordova’s Sculpture Park hosts more than 60 works, the majority of which are on loan to the Museum. DeCordova also offers the largest non-degree granting studio art program in New England. DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum attracts more than 100,000 visitors from New England and tourists from around the world to its campus each year and enrolls more than 3,000 students of all ages in its studio art program.

**General Information**

DeCordova is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10am to 5pm and on selected Monday holidays. General admission during Museum hours is $12 for adults; $8 for senior citizens, students, and youth ages 6-12. Children age 5 and under, Lincoln residents, and Active Duty Military Personnel and their dependents are admitted free. The Sculpture Park is open year-round during daylight hours. Guided public tours of the Museum’s main galleries take place every Thursday at 1pm and Sunday at 2pm. Tours of the Sculpture Park are given on Saturday and Sunday at 1pm from May to October. All guided tours are free with Campus admission. Visit www.decordova.org or call 781.259.8355 for further information.

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