



deCordova
Sculpture Park and Museum

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DeCordova Presents Downtown Public Art Project by Jeannie Simms in Partnership with Boston City Hall

Lincoln, MA, August 21, 2018—DeCordova is pleased to present a new public art installation in partnership with Boston City Hall. *Under the Sun* by Boston-based artist Jeannie Simms, which features two large-scale photographic panels, is on view now in Boston City Hall's Main Atrium through October 5.

Under the Sun was created by Simms in 2017 in the Italian town of Sant'Alessio in Aspromonte. With active support from the Mayor, Stefano Ioli Calabrò, the artist worked with local inhabitants and immigrants on two participatory cyanotypes (cyan-blue cameraless photographs). The community foraged abandoned residences for objects that reminded them of the concept of "home." With Simms, they arranged them on huge photosensitive cotton sheets and exposed them to the sunlight. The results are images of ghostly domestic objects that seem to float in a sea of blue, evoking the displacement endured by immigrants fleeing their homes.

Martina Tanga, deCordova's Koch Curatorial Fellow, organized this project and states, "Jeannie's interests in language, labor, citizenship, and migration are all brought together in this project. The title metaphorically links us all—immigrants and non-immigrants—under one sun, and also highlights the dangerous sea journeys many migrants face in search for a safer home. Siting this work at City Hall brings these questions directly to a place of government, administration, and decision making, where policies can be rewritten and changes can happen."

Kara Elliott-Ortega, interim Chief of Arts and Culture for the City of Boston, affirms that "The City of Boston is committed to recognizing, celebrating, and protecting immigrants. *Under the Sun* is a fantastic way for us to continue this public dialog with through visual art that makes the most of public space in City Hall."

Simms' work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including at the Alternative Film Center, Belgrade, Serbia; the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Los Angeles

Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE), L.A.; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and SF Camerawork, San Francisco. Her work has been funded by Art Matters, the Cambridge Arts Council, and a Daynard Faculty Travel Fellowship from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA) in Boston. Simms is the Director of Graduate Studies at the SMFA at Tufts University.

This project is part of an ongoing series of exhibitions featuring guest curators from Greater Boston's leading cultural organizations—such as the MIT List and the MFA, Boston—at Boston City Hall, as part of the Boston Creates Cultural Plan. Funding for the exhibition is provided by Boston City Hall.

This is the second downtown public art project deCordova has co-presented this year. In May, deCordova partnered with The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy on a large-scale outdoor mural by artist Shara Hughes, which is on view through next spring.

Opening Reception with Artist Jeannie Simms

Friday, September 14, 4–5:30 pm

Boston City Hall, Main Atrium

1 City Hall Square, Boston, MA

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About deCordova

Established in 1950 and located just twenty miles west of Boston, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum is dedicated to fostering the creation and exploration of contemporary sculpture and art through a dynamic slate of rotating exhibitions, innovative learning opportunities, a constantly changing thirty-acre landscape of large-scale, outdoor, modern and contemporary sculpture, and site-specific installations.

About the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture (MOAC)

The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture's mission is to support artists, the cultural sector, and to promote access to the arts for all. The office houses the Boston Cultural Council, the Boston Art Commission, and the Poet Laureate program. Responsibilities include implementing the City's cultural plan, Boston Creates; commissioning public art, managing the Boston Artist-in-Residence program; curating exhibitions in City Hall; and operating the historic Strand Theater in Dorchester. For more information go to:

www.boston.gov/departments/arts-and-culture

General Information

DeCordova's summer hours (Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day weekend) are every day, Monday–Sunday, 10 am–5 pm. DeCordova's winter hours (beginning after Columbus Day weekend) are Wednesday–Friday, from 10 am–4 pm, and Saturday and Sunday, 10 am–5 pm. Admission: \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors, \$10 for students (ages 13 and up), and free for children 12 and under. Members, cyclists, Lincoln residents, and active duty military personnel and their families are admitted free of charge with proper ID. Visit decordova.org or call 781.259.8355 for further information.

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