DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  

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DeCordova presents \textit{Existed: Leonardo Drew}  

Lincoln, MA, July 15, 2010 – DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum announces it will host \textit{Existed: Leonardo Drew} September 18, 2010 – January 9, 2011. This prominent show is the only presentation of \textit{Existed} in the Northeast, and deCordova will be the final venue for this impressive traveling exhibition.  

Director Dennis Kois says, “This exhibition is another great step in showcasing deCordova’s commitment to contemporary sculpture of international caliber. Leonardo Drew is one of today’s most challenging and fascinating artists. We are pleased to bring this forward-looking contemporary show to the Boston area.”  

\textit{Existed} is a mid-career survey of the sculptural work of New York-based artist Leonardo Drew. The exhibition highlights twenty-one works made over the course of twenty years, ranging from Drew’s seminal piece, \textit{Number 8}, assembled in 1988, through the monumental installation of \textit{Number 123}, which will be specifically re-fashioned for deCordova. Considered one of the most influential and ambitious projects of Drew’s career, \textit{Number 123} will be installed by the artist on deCordova’s sprawling 1800 square foot Grand Staircase wall.  

Highlighting Drew’s career-long interest in nature’s cycle of creation, decay, and regeneration, \textit{Existed} includes a selection of large-scale sculpture and works on paper. Built from rows of stacked cotton and wooden boxes, stuffed with rags and scavenged objects, and caked with rust to suggest degeneration, Drew’s sculptural work resembles the detritus of everyday life. The artist often ages his found, recycled, and fabricated materials by employing a process that is physically and conceptually steeped in memory, history, and the passage of time. While Drew’s elegant and grand scale amalgamations are formally abstract, they are emotionally charged and carry a metaphorical weight that is unique. Drew has explained that “the works themselves should act as mirrors,” and encourages personal interpretation and individual reaction to the artworks. \textit{Existed} also features Drew’s works on paper and cast paper sculptures. In 2002, Drew began to create sculptures using paper replicas of his ongoing collection of found and castoff items.  

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The all white paper casts introduced a new presence into the artist’s work, a ghostlike immateriality and ethereality that counters the visceral weight and physical immediacy of his larger sculptural tableaux. Seen together, these works offer a representative survey of Drew’s artistic development and speak to the relevance of the direction that his work is taking today.

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive monograph, the first on this artist, published by D Giles Limited, London, featuring essays by Blaffer director and chief curator Claudia Schmuckli and Allen S. Weiss, associate adjunct professor of performance and cinema studies at New York University.

Existed has been organized by the Blaffer Gallery, The Art Museum of the University of Houston. Major funding has been provided in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support from the Eleanor and Frank Freed Foundation, the Harpo Foundation, the Linda Pace Foundation, The Fifth Floor Foundation, and Sikkema Jenkins & Co.

About the Artist
Born in Tallahassee, Florida and raised in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Drew currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York and San Antonio, Texas. Drew attended the Parsons School of Design and received a BFA from the Cooper Union in 1985. His work has been shown at international venues, including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC; the Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin; the Art Institute of Chicago; the Miami Art Museum; Tate Modern, London; and the St. Louis Art Museum.

Educational Programming
All programs are free with museum admission

Artist Talk: Leonardo Drew
Saturday, September 25, 3 pm

Curator Talk: Koch Curatorial Fellow Lexi Lee
Saturday, November 13, 3 pm

Eye Wonder: Guest Artist Leonardo Drew
Sunday, September 26, 1 – 3 pm

Process Gallery
Explore Leonardo Drew: Existed in a behind-the-scenes way through hands-on interactive activities, touchable materials samples, and a video tour of Drew’s studio! Find out more about the artist’s creative process, see how he ages various materials, and touch materials samples in this interactive gallery.

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Cell Phone Audio Tour
Bring your cell phone to Leonardo Drew: Existed and let the artist leads you through his exhibition. Listen as Leonardo Drew discusses his creative process, the ways in which he ages his materials, what goes through his mind when creating a new piece, and how his work has evolved over the years.

Family Activity Kit
Check out our Family Activity Kit at the front desk of the museum. The free kit includes art making materials and activities that focus on current exhibitions and is great for ages 5-12. This is a perfect way for families to engage in contemporary art together!

Family Gallery Guides
Gallery Guides are available throughout the museum and provide information about the Leonardo Drew exhibition in a family-friendly way.

About DeCordova
DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum was established in 1950 to educate the public 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 April to November. All guided tours are free with Campus admission. Visit www.decordova.org or call 781.259.8355 for further information.

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