

deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DeCordova presents *PAINT THINGS: beyond the stretcher*, on view this winter

Lincoln, MA, November 20, 2012— DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum is pleased to announce the opening of *PAINT THINGS: beyond the stretcher* on view January 27 through April 21, 2013. Building on the premise that the painting itself is a structural object, upon which color is pushed around through a series of performed actions, the exhibition and its related programs examine the twenty-year development of painting-as-sculpture and vice versa, and feature 18 contemporary artists who use sculptural and performative mediums as a means of confronting or questioning the practice of painting.

PAINT THINGS is organized by deCordova curator Dina Deitsch and guest curator Evan Garza, Exhibitions and Public Programs Coordinator, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA), co-founder and assistant director of the Fire Island Artist Residency (FIAR), and former Editor-at-Large for *New American Paintings*. Featured artists include **Claire Ashley, Katie Bell, Sarah Braman, Sarah Cain, Alex Da Corte, Cheryl Donegan, Franklin Evans, Kate Gilmore, Alex Hubbard, James Hyde, Sean Kennedy, Wilson Lawrence, Steve Locke, Analia Saban, Allison Schulnik, Jessica Stockholder, Mika Tajima, and Summer Wheat.**

PAINT THINGS artists have expanded painting beyond the two-dimensional picture plane and into sculptural forms through spatial and material investigations. This colorful, genre-busting exhibition invites us to re-examine the practice of painting and consider the limitless possibilities for the future of the medium and its material context. The artists serve up bold, gestural, and highly innovative works that invite us to think about painting as it relates to physical, social, and emotional space. *PAINT THINGS* brings together painting, sculpture, performance, installation, and video works that explore the intersections of these disciplines through form, color, and space.

Painting has long been associated with the traditions of art making, and—like the stretcher itself—has been historically confined. In shifting, merging, and applying the conventions of painting to the multi-dimensional possibilities of sculpture, the artists featured in *PAINT THINGS* subsequently address broader notions of art, practice, and form. Beginning with major contributions to this dialogue from female artists in the early 1990s, this group exhibition underscores a decades-long fusing of the disciplines of painting and sculpture that brings with it a subtext of feminism, body politics, and performance.

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Over the past five years, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum has renewed its focus on sculpture and related media, with an interest in the increasingly blurred boundaries of sculpture, installation, painting, and performance. Contemporary artists are similarly investigating the material dimensions of paint and painting traditions and *PAINT THINGS* visualizes the exciting convergence of these two moments.

The exhibition is accompanied by a full-color catalogue featuring essays by Evan J. Garza and Dina Deitsch.

Featured Commissions

Using the language of building and interior decor to create large wall installations and intimately scaled constructions, **Katie Bell** (b.1986, Rockford, IL) will create a new assemblage specific to the deCordova Museum. Wall paper, architectural sketches, and swatches of her own mother's interior design book appear in and inform her work, giving it the distinct aura of the domestic.

Los Angeles-based artist **Sarah Cain** (b. 1979, Albany, NY) will create a site-specific installation in the Museum's Linde Gallery. Cain's work will be a direct response to the gallery's architecture—pouring off the wall and onto the floor in geometric, constructivist compositions that will expose the underlying construction of both room and canvas in equal measure.

Franklin Evans (b. 1967, Reno, NV) creates room-encompassing, multi-dimensional painting installations that incorporate the repeated module of painter's tape. Evans' installations are saturated with distinctive, personalized narrative elements and unexpected relationships to landscape, queerness, and selected histories. For *PAINT THINGS*, Evans will apply his trademark installation techniques to the Phyllis and Jerome Lyle Rappaport Gallery Media Space.

Masterfully intertwining performance, sculpture/installation, and video in her practice, **Kate Gilmore** (b. 1975, Washington D.C.) uses her own body to convey ideas of “a woman's work” while simultaneously creating a dialogue about inherently formal issues. In her action-directed performance videos, Gilmore typically performs basic labor—moving, climbing, lifting—and incorporates objects that evoke the material of art (paint-filled boxes, colored walls). Gilmore will create a new installation/performance/video for *PAINT THINGS*, which involves the fabrication of a sculptural object, an endurance performance involving that object, and a video documentation of the performance.

Exhibition-related Public Programs and Performances

All programs at deCordova are free with Museum admission, unless otherwise noted.

Artist and Curator Programs

Curator Tour with Dina Deitsch and Evan Garza of *PAINT THINGS*

Saturday, March 2, 2 pm

Artist Discussion with Kate Gilmore and Franklin Evans

Saturday, March 23, 2 pm

Join *PAINT THINGS* exhibiting artists as they discuss the creation of their site-specific works made for the exhibition.

***PAINT THINGS*: Performance Day**

Saturday, April 6, 11 am – 3 pm

***DOUBLE DISCO* by Claire Ashley**

11:30 am; 12:30 pm; 1:30 pm; 2:30 pm (5 minute performance)

PAINT THINGS artist Ashley choreographs a sculptural performance in *DOUBLE DISCO*.

***Indigo Girls* by Travis Boyer**

Drop in anytime 11 am -3 pm

New York-based performance artist Boyer will be on hand for his interactive, dyeing project *Indigo Girls*. Please bring in an item to be dipped in indigo.

Participatory Programs

ARTfull Play

Wednesday, January 30, 10:30 am

Occurs again on: February 13 and 27, March 13 and 27, April 10 and 24

Fill your day with art and play. Parents and children 5 and under.

pARTicipate

Connecting to contemporary art across age and experience

Sunday, Feb. 17, 1 – 4pm

A day of activities highlighting deCordova's indoor and outdoor art and environments designed for families and for adults. Hear updates on Andy Goldsworthy's deCordova commission, *Snow House*, and join in making community snowballs and constructing *snowdecahedrons* with public artist Dan Sternof Beyer. Interact with the dynamic exhibition, *PAINT THINGS*, through tours and projects. Warm up your day with hot cocoa and tea.

ART for February Vacation, drop in anytime 1-3 pm

COLOR PLAY: February 19 and 20

OUT OF THE FRAME: February 21 and 22

Fill your vacation with art through dynamic hands-on projects inspired by the use of vibrant color in three-dimensional form in *PAINT THINGS*. Designed for families with children ages 2-12 but all are welcome.

ARTfull Explorations

Sunday, March 17, drop in 1-3 pm

Sunday, April 7, drop in 1-3 pm

Art exploration and making for the whole family.

Ongoing Programs

Process Gallery and Art ExperienCenter

Explore the intersection between painting and sculpture in these two participatory spaces focused on *PAINT THINGS*. Discover and experiment with the ways in which objects, actions, and architecture can expand on traditional ideas about painting to become sculptural “paint things.”

Family Activity Kits

Kits are available for interactive exploration of *PAINT THINGS* and Sculpture Park themes. Check them out at the Museum front desk when you arrive.

About deCordova

Building on its history as one of New England’s most beloved and stunningly-situated cultural institutions, and its growing reputation as a leading national presenter of contemporary sculpture and art, deCordova is well on its way to its goal of becoming a clear leader among this country’s sculpture parks. Established in 1950 and located just 20 miles northwest of Boston, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum is dedicated to fostering the creation and exploration of contemporary sculpture and art through a robust slate of rotating exhibitions, innovative learning opportunities, and a constantly changing landscape of large-scale, outdoor, modern and contemporary sculpture and site-specific installations.

In March of 2010, deCordova acquired its first work by an international sculptor and continues to bolster the curatorial program by exhibiting high-quality, engaging art of nationally and internationally recognized artists indoors and out. To maintain its commitment to New England artists and emphasize the quality and vitality of the art created in this region, deCordova launched the deCordova Biennial in 2010 and the PLATFORM series in 2009.

Patrons of deCordova can enjoy year round activities in the Sculpture Park and Museum, including family activities, snowshoe tours, yoga in the park, curator and artist conversations, demonstrations and workshops, and many special talks, screenings, and events. Unique to deCordova, the Corporate Program provides area businesses the opportunity to support the institution and regional artists through membership initiatives and Art Loan options. DeCordova is also home to the only preschool embedded in a contemporary art museum in the United States.

General Information

DeCordova’s **NEW winter hours** are: Wednesday through Friday, 10 am to 4pm and Saturdays and Sundays 10 am to 5pm. Admission: \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors, \$10 for students (ages 13 and up), and FREE for children 12 and under. Members, Lincoln residents, and active duty military personnel and their families are admitted free of charge with proper ID. Public tours of the Museum’s main galleries take place Thursdays and Sundays at 2 pm and First Free Wednesdays of each month at 1 pm. Public tours of the Sculpture Park are offered Saturdays and Sundays at 1 pm from April to November. Public tours are free with admission. Group tours for students and adults are also available. Visit decordova.org or call 781.259.8355 for further information.