DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum
51 Sandy Pond Road
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DeCordova’s sixth exhibition in the PLATFORM series opens January 29, 2011

PLATFORM 6: Barbara Gallucci
Utopiary Terrace

Lincoln, MA, November 1, 2010 — DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum announces the installation of Barbara Gallucci’s *Utopiary Terrace*, the sixth exhibition of the PLATFORM series, on display January 29–April 24, 2011. In her functional installation, the New York and Boston-based sculptor will redesign the Museum’s 3rd floor lobby with her “topia” beanbag chairs and cork-covered terrace. Referencing manicured lawns and the designed landscape, the installation reflects Gallucci’s long-standing interest in iconic mid-century modern furniture design and the role of nature in contemporary culture. Installed in a glass-enclosed area of the museum, Gallucci’s *Utopiary Terrace* addresses deCordova’s site as an indoor and outdoor venue for contemporary art.

*Utopiary Terrace* is a site-specific installation using over-scaled beanbag chairs covered in “grassy” shag chenille that will be installed in the 3rd Floor Lobby on a layered cork platform. *Topia*, according to Barbara Gallucci, is a word fragment derived partly from the word utopia, an ideal but unattainable state, and topiary, an artificially sculpted landscape. The sculpture’s grass-like covering is a response to our society’s machined approach to nature and man’s desire to control our natural environment. By placing the topia chairs on a tiered platform in the Museum, Gallucci brings nature inside and displays it as a functional part of any room. The hedge-like forms of the chairs are intended as a commentary on how nature “behaves” for our culture and functions to provide comfort.

Associate Curator of Contemporary Art Dina Deitsch says, “Barbara’s fusion of landscape and modernist design is perfectly at home at deCordova, New England’s largest outdoor venue for contemporary art just minutes from the Gropius House—a masterpiece of high modernist architecture. *Utopiary Terrace* underscores the intertwined history and conceptual grounding of landscape architecture and the Modernist legacy, locating the Museum and Sculpture Park at an interesting nexus between the two.”

Gallucci’s sculpture was partly inspired by the May 1989 New York Times article entitled “Why Mow? The Case Against Lawns.” The article examines our country’s obsession with perfectly trimmed green yards and the societal implications of an unkempt lawn. Written by Michael Pollan, who transforms his extensive lawn into gardens, the -more-
article begins with an appreciation of a vast green land and his ability to “dominate” it with his lawn mower. However, Pollan soon comes to loathe the ritual of cutting the grass and watching it grow throughout the week, only to result in another four-hour mowing session the following weekend. Pollan questions our need to have a well manicured lawn—if we are intended to live along with nature must we change it to meet our social standards?

The idea behind *Utopiary Terrace* is closely linked to society’s need to alter nature in order to live among it. By creating a sculpture that mimics grass, she incorporates nature into her examination, highlighting the degree to which we have since constructed our ideas about “nature.”

**Educational Programming**

All programs are free with Museum admission unless otherwise stated.

Eye Wonder Family Program  
Sunday, February 6, 1–3pm

Artist Talk: Barbara Gallucci  
Saturday, February 12, 3 pm

PLATFORM Discussion Series  
Saturday, March 26, 3 pm  
Join exhibiting artist Barbara Gallucci and landscape architect Michael Blier in this PLATFORM-exclusive event. The conversation will discuss how Gallucci’s *Utopiary Terrace* explores issues of landscape, architecture, the great outdoors, and the world of fine art and sculpture.

**About the Artist**

Barbara Gallucci is a New York based sculptor and photographer. She earned her M.F.A. at Yale University in 1987. Her work, ranging in scale from autonomous objects to large-scale installation, examines the intersections between sculpture, furniture and interior design. In her photographic work she documents icons of the prefab housing movement including Levittown interiors and A-Frames. She has exhibited her work at the Bakalar Gallery, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA; Greene Street Gallery, Boston, MA; Gallery Kayafas, Boston, MA; Derek Eller Gallery, New York, NY; Lauren Wittels Gallery, New York, NY; Site Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM; Galerie Les Filles Du Calvaire, Paris, France; Frac Credac, Paris, France; Tri Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; McKinney Ave Contemporary, Dallas, TX; among others. She is currently a full-time sculpture faculty member at the School of the Museum of Fine Art, Boston, MA.

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About the PLATFORM series
PLATFORM is a series of solo exhibitions by early and mid-career artists from both the New England and national arts communities. These shows focus on work that engages with deCordova's unique architectural spaces and social, geographical, and physical location. The PLATFORM series is intended as a support for creativity and expression of new ideas, and as a catalyst for dialogue about contemporary art.

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 10 am to 5 pm 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 1 pm and Sunday at 2 pm.

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