The Eighth Project in deCordova’s PLATFORM Series opens September 18
PLATFORM 8: Soo Sunny Park and Spencer Topel, Capturing Resonance

Lincoln, MA, September 6, 2011—DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum announces
the installation of Soo Sunny Park’s and Spencer Topel’s Capturing Resonance, the
eighth project in the PLATFORM series, on view September 18, 2011 through July 2012.
In their first collaboration, New Hampshire-based sculptor Soo Sunny Park and sound
artist, composer Spencer Topel have transformed deCordova’s unconventional Window
Gallery into a multi-sensory environment. As part of the ongoing PLATFORM series, in
which emerging and mid-career artists are invited to create work which responds to
deCordova’s unique indoor and outdoor space, Park and Topel have composed a large-
scale installation that utilizes the intense natural light in the gallery along with the flow of
museum visitors through this transitional space to create an ever-changing sculptural
soundscape.

Park is best known for using quotidian building materials such as insulation, dry wall,
and mesh screens to create experiential installations that rely on repetition and the
interplay of light and materials to sublime effect. For Capturing Resonance, Park has
similarly transformed a ubiquitous and obdurate material — chain link fencing — into
something transcendent. By inserting thousands of iridescent acrylic Plexiglas squares
into chain link cells, Park created a sprawling, undulating structure that transmits,
reflects, and refracts both the natural and artificial light into the gallery.

Hanging from the third floor ceiling, Capturing Resonance fills the narrow space. The
cascading, interlocking convex and concave Plexi and chain link fence units appear as
biomorphic forms, overwhelming the field of vision of each visitor as they enter the
gallery. Depending on the time of day, rainbow hued shadows fill the space, shifting from
crisp representations of the structure to abstract color washes with the path of the sun. In
Capturing Resonance, shifting light becomes a sculptural material and a symbol of
transient physical and psychological states.
As visitors proceed through the interstitial – or in-between – space, motion sensors in the installation respond by activating different auditory ‘states’ that vary in both intensity and frequency. Layering an audio dimension onto *Capturing Resonance*, Topel blends whispering chords, soft tonal washes, and elongated instrumental sounds in a continuous and ever-changing composition that responds to human interaction. Depending on the number of people in the space, the musical states increase or decrease accordingly. High-tech panel speakers (that reflect soundwaves off the sculpture) and low-frequency bass exciters (that resonate against the wall and the sculpture) work together with the modular forms to create a quasi-kinetic sculptural installation.

In *Capturing Resonance*, Park and Topel have fused visual and sonic elements in a sensorial environment that captures the dynamic interactions among light, sound, and human presence. Transforming an already architecturally in-between space, Park and Topel filter the non-physical conditions of the site—light and movement—through sculptural and aural forms to create a site-specific and responsive architectonic installation that continually shifts and transforms in relation to perspective, time, and presence.

The 2011-2012 PLATFORM series is generously funded by James and Audrey Foster. *Capturing Resonance* is also supported by the Digital Musics Program at Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH; Holosonic Research Labs, Inc., Watertown, MA; and Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI.

**Educational Programming**

PLACEMENT Discussion Series
Saturday, February 4, 2 pm
Join exhibiting artists Soo Sunny Park and Spencer Topel as they discuss the creation of their first collaborative work, *Capturing Resonance*. The conversation will investigate the development process of their individual compositions and how they are interwoven to form a holistic experience, as well as how they took to the challenge to create a transcendent work of art that encompasses such a unique gallery space.

**About the Artists**

**Soo Sunny Park** was born in 1975 in Seoul, Korea. She currently lives in Hanover, NH and is an Associate Professor of Studio Art at Dartmouth College. Park received a B.F.A. from Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio and an M.F.A Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. She is a recipient of a Joan Mitchell M.F.A. Grant, the 19th Annual Michigan Fine Arts Competition Grand Prize, The Helen Foster Barnett Prize from The National Academy Museum, New York, NY (2008), and The Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center Fellowship (2010).

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Recent solo shows include Soo Sunny Park, Jaffre-Friede Gallery, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH; Fractal Immersion, Reeves Contemporary, Chelsea, NY; Bio-Structure: Metro-Geo, Kranzberg Exhibition, Laumeier Sculpture Park, St. Louis, MO. Group exhibitions include Fabrications, Great River Arts, The Newport Mills, Newport, NH; 183rd Annual: An Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary American Art, National Academy Museum, NYC; 2007 Invitational Show, American Academy of Arts and Letters, NYC; Joan Mitchell Foundation, CUE Art Foundation, NYC.

Spencer Topel was born 1979 in Denver, CO. He currently lives in Hanover, NH and is a Visiting Faculty member of Dartmouth College, serving in both the Department of Music and the Digital Musics program. Topel received a B.M and M.M. from Juilliard School in Music Composition and is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Cornell University. He is a recipient of a Diploma di Merito from the Accademia Musicale Chigiana, a 2009 award for best composition from the American Modern Ensemble, Juilliard's Palmer Dixon Prize for best composition, and additional awards from BMI, ASCAP.

His music has recently appeared on concert programs in major venues such as Issue Project Room, Brooklyn NY, Orchestra Hall, Minnesota with the Minnesota Orchestra, the Chiesa di Sana Caterina Treviso in Venice, Italy, the Aspen Music Festival, Chigiana Festival in Siena, Italy, Alice Tully and Weill Concert Halls in New York, NY and in Tokyo City Opera Hall.

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

Established in 1950, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum is the largest park of its kind in New England encompassing 35 acres, 20 miles northwest of Boston. In 2009, deCordova changed its name from deCordova Museum and Sculpture Park to deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum to emphasize its renewed focus on sculpture and to support the institution’s goal of becoming the leading Sculpture Park in the United States by 2020. Providing a constantly changing landscape of large-scale, outdoor, modern and contemporary sculpture and site-specific installations, the Sculpture Park hosts a range of
unique and site-specific artworks, the majority of which are on loan to the Museum. Inside, the Museum features a robust slate of rotating exhibitions and innovative interpretive programming.

In 2009 deCordova acquired its first work by an international sculptor and continues to bolster the curatorial program by exhibiting high-quality, accessible art of nationally and internationally recognized artists indoors and out. Currently, visitors can view work by Antony Gormley, Roy Lichtenstein, Sol LeWitt, Chakaia Booker, and Rona Pondick along with 60 other well-known artists. 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 snowshoe tours, yoga in the park, birding tours, curator and artist conversations, and many special talks, screenings, and events. DeCordova’s School offers classes and workshops throughout the year and is one of the largest non-degree granting studio art programs in New England. 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 is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 am to 5 pm and on select Monday holidays. General admission during Museum hours is $12 for adults; $8 for senior citizens, students, and youth ages 6–12. Children ages 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. Tours of the Sculpture Park are given on Saturday and Sunday at 1 pm from April to November. All guided tours are free with Campus admission. Visit decordova.org or call 781.259.8355 or further information.