

deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum announces  
*The 2012 deCordova Biennial* exhibition, programs, and performances

Lincoln, MA, January 19, 2012 – DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum is pleased to announce *The 2012 deCordova Biennial* and exhibition-related programs and performances this winter. The exhibition, on view January 22 through April 22, 2012, follows *The 2010 deCordova Biennial*, the first of deCordova’s revamped regional showcase, for which Curator Dina Deitsch won critical acclaim for her fresh curatorial approach. DeCordova formerly presented the twenty-year deCordova Annual exhibition program designed to feature art from across New England.

*The 2012 deCordova Biennial* is the largest and most ambitious to date. Co-organized by Curator Dina Deitsch and Guest Curator Abigail Ross Goodman, former co-director of the Judi Rotenberg Gallery, the exhibition features 23 artists and collaboratives and will occupy almost the entirety of the museum and beyond—reaching into the Sculpture Park, the city of Boston, and nearby communities through a series of public, off-site projects.

*The 2012 deCordova Biennial* remains non-thematic but aims to reflect the dynamism, variety, and quality of art-making in the New England region. Featured artists grapple with contemporary issues, touching on a range of emergent and established practices: third wave craft, updated abstraction, art in the social sphere, a resurgence of trompe-l’oeil in object-making, and new takes on photography.

Over the past year, Deitsch and Goodman visited almost one hundred studios and reviewed the portfolios of many more artists in an attempt to present the wide scope of art-making in New England. They set out to explore the diverse practices of the region’s artists, with a particular interest in those that venture beyond the gallery, both conceptually and physically.

The final selection of 23 artists and collaboratives reflects and engages with, what curators Deitsch and Goodman note as, “the current mood of anxiety, discomfort, and, overall change we are experiencing throughout American culture. These artists each exemplify art’s capacity to communicate and address contemporary life through a range

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of techniques and forms from traditional abstract painting to more emergent social and participatory practices. In all, this group of artists reexamines the task of art making through thoughtful, introspection, and by questioning their own roles within society.”

Goodman and Deitsch were aided in their process by an esteemed group of curators from the region who served as an Advisory Board: Ian Berry, Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs and Curator, The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY; Richard Klein, Exhibitions Director, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT; and Denise Markonish, Curator, Mass MoCA, North Adams, MA.

*The 2012 deCordova Biennial* will be accompanied by an 88-page, color catalogue featuring essays by the curators and a guest essay about public art by Gavin Kroeber.

*The 2012 deCordova Biennial* is made possible in part by generous support from the Deborah A. Hawkins Charitable Trust, The Robert E. Davoli and Eileen L. McDonagh Charitable Foundation, Barbara and Jonathan Lee, and by a grant from the Artists’ Resource Trust. Special thanks to print media sponsor The Boston Globe, in-kind media sponsor WBUR, and official hotel sponsor The Onyx Hotel.

*The 2012 deCordova Biennial Artists:*

Antoniadis & Stone	Mary Lum
Caitlin Berrigan	Megan and Murray McMillan
Taylor Davis	Ann Pibal
Jo Dery	Matt Saunders
Kim Faler	South End Knitters
Matthew Gamber	Chris Taylor
Jessica Gath	Ven Voisey
Jonathan Gitelson	Anna von Mertens
Eric Gottesman	Joe Wardwell
Corin Hewitt	Cullen Bryant Washington, Jr.
Lauren Kalman	Joe Zane
Steve Lambert	

[Visit the website](#) for more information about the artists.

### **Exhibition-related Public Programs and Performances**

All programs at deCordova are free with Museum admission.  
Admission to the Cyclorama at the BCA is free.

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**Artist Discussion: Minimalism Revived**

**Taylor Davis and Mary Lum**

**Saturday, January 28, 2 pm at deCordova**

Exhibiting artists Taylor Davis and Mary Lum will discuss the resurgence of Abstract Minimalism in contemporary art. Abstract Minimalism has strong roots in a male-centric art historical tradition, but women are increasingly engaged with this movement in contemporary art practice. Davis and Lum will address what Minimalism is as an art movement and how it pertains to their respective bodies of work. Artist discussion will be followed by a brief Q & A period.

***Spectrum of Inevitable Violence***

**Installation by Caitlin Berrigan at the Cyclorama**

**Open to the public February 13–19 from 3–5 pm, free admission**

In partnership with the [Boston Center for the Arts](#)

Cyclorama at the BCA | 539 Tremont Street

**Interactive Performance: *Spectrum of Inevitable Violence***

**Wednesday, February 15, 6 pm, free admission**

**Cyclorama at the BCA | 539 Tremont Street**

Please email [programs@decordova.org](mailto:programs@decordova.org) to register to participate.

The unresolved, elusive, but timely forces of cultural and spatial politics are at the heart of Caitlin Berrigan's *Spectrum of Inevitable Violence*, which will transform the Cyclorama into a massive arena to explode ideas about social class. Berrigan, who often integrates performance with edible art, asks participants to analyze their class background and map it out as a territory to defend in a dynamic confrontation—with food as ammunition. This battle provides an outlet for all the tensions that lie below the surface of language, and for the inadequacy of survey and analysis to fully represent interpersonal coercions of class and social mobility.

**Artist Discussion: Ambiguous Affiliations**

**Thursday, February 16, 6:30 pm, free admission**

**Cyclorama at the BCA | 539 Tremont Street**

Caitlin Berrigan will be joined by Anabel Vázquez Rodríguez, curator LA GALERÍA, Villa Victoria Center for the Arts, and James G. Ennis, Associate Professor of Sociology at Tufts University with an expertise in social movements to discuss subjects surrounding *Spectrum of Inevitable Violence*, such as the slippery affiliations of social class, the role culture plays in their dynamics, and how personal interrelations of class enter into larger political domains.

**Curator Tour with Abigail Ross Goodman**

**Saturday, February 25, 2 pm at deCordova**

Tour *The 2012 deCordova Biennial* with one of the exhibition co-curators. The public will have a chance to gain a curatorial perspective behind conceiving an exhibition showcasing innovative New England artists.

**Artist Discussion: Artistic Collaboration**

**Antoniadis and Stone, Megan and Murray McMillan**

**Saturday, March 10, 2 pm at deCordova**

Join exhibiting artists Alexi Antoniadis, Nico Stone, and Megan and Murray McMillan as they discuss what it is like to work collaboratively with another artist, and how working as a team affects their creative practice. The artists will bring light to questions such as what is in a name, where does each artist's creativity come to light, and how do artistic collaborations logistically work. Artist discussion will be followed by a brief Q & A period.

**South End Knitters**

**Saturday, March 24, 12–3 pm**

Come and work with the South End Knitters and 'yarn bomb' the deCordova. This is a drop-in program open to all knitters and those that would like to learn.

Visit [decordova.org](http://decordova.org) for current information.

**Curator Tour with Dina Deitsch**

**Thursday, April 5, 2 pm at deCordova**

Tour *The 2012 deCordova Biennial* with one of the exhibition co-curators. The public will have a chance to gain a curatorial perspective behind conceiving an exhibition showcasing innovative New England artists.

**Artist Discussion: Musical Influences**

**Joe Wardwell and Ven Voisey**

**Saturday, April 7, 2 pm at deCordova**

Join exhibiting artists Joe Wardwell and Ven Voisey as they discuss how music is incorporated into their bodies of work in general, and more specifically to their work on view in *The 2012 deCordova Biennial*. Artist discussion will be followed by a brief Q & A session.

***Capitalism Works For Me! True/False*, Steve Lambert**

In April this participatory piece will travel to the streets of Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, and more. Visit [decordova.org](http://decordova.org) for current information.

**Interactive Performance: Jessica Gath, *For You, [W]Rapper***

**Saturdays through the exhibition, 11 am–3 pm**

Boston-based conceptual artist Jessica Gath will present *For You, [W]Rapper*, in which she accepts, wraps and returns objects to Museum visitors. DeCordova invites you to bring a gift for a friend or a loved one so you may participate in Gath's performance.

**Process Gallery**

Learn about the creative processes behind many of the artists in *The 2012 deCordova Biennial*. See how Antoniadis & Stone use materials to trick their viewers, map the stars like Anna von Mertens, and find out why Mary Lum takes so many walks in this interactive gallery.

**Cell Phone Audio Tour**

Bring your cell phone to deCordova this winter and let the artists help you navigate your way through *The 2012 deCordova Biennial*. Listen as artists discuss the ideas and inspiration behind their work, share anecdotes and behind-the-scenes information, and provide insight into their creative practices.

**Family Programs**

**Eye Wonder Family Program**

**Sunday, February 5, 1–3 pm**

**Sunday, March 4, 1–3 pm**

**Sunday, April 1, 1–3 pm**, with *Biennial* artist Jonathan Gitelson

Eye Wonder is a monthly drop-in program for families which focuses on careful looking and creative art projects. During February, March, and April each Eye Wonder will focus on a different *Biennial* artist.

**Family Day: Color**

**Saturday, February 18, 11 am–3 pm**

Families with children of all ages are invited to explore how artists employ color and why some decide to work in black and white. The day will consist of art activities, artist demonstrations, storytelling, and more!

**February Vacation Week**

**Tuesday–Friday, February 21–24**

Drop-in as a family every day during February vacation week from 1–3 pm for an art activity that relates to the current exhibitions: *The 2012 deCordova Biennial*, *Wall Works*, and PLATFORM 8: Soo Sunny Park and Spencer Topel, *Capturing Resonance*. Program designed for all ages.

### **April Vacation Week**

#### **Tuesday–Friday, April 17–20**

Drop-in as a family every day during April vacation week from 1–3 pm for an art activity that relates to the current exhibitions: *The 2012 deCordova Biennial*, *Wall Works*, and PLATFORM 8: Soo Sunny Park and Spencer Topel, *Capturing Resonance*. Program designed for all ages.

### **Family Activity Kits**

Pick up a Family Activity Kit at the front desk of the Museum and explore *The 2012 deCordova Biennial* as a family. Creative activities and engaging questions prompt families to see and discuss art in a new way.

### **Family Gallery Guides**

Biennial Family Gallery Guides are available in the galleries to facilitate looking and talking about works of art together. Discover information about the artist and artworks through fun questions and close-looking activities that involve the entire family.

## **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. **To coincide with the new Strategic Plan, as of January 22 the cost of admission will change to the following: \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors, \$10 for students (ages 13 and up), and Free for children 12 and under.** 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](http://decordova.org) or call 781.259.8355 or further information.

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