The deCordova New England Biennial 2016 will host new and site-specific works, innovative programming and events

Lincoln, MA, September 13, 2016—DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum is pleased to present the work of sixteen New England-based artists in the deCordova New England Biennial 2016, opening October 7, 2016, and on view through March 26, 2017. The exhibition is deCordova’s fourth iteration of the biennial format, after nearly twenty years of hosting annual surveys. Seeking to emphasize the variety and high quality of art-making in New England, the Biennial continues deCordova’s longstanding commitment to artists living and working in the six states of New England. The selected artists, whose works span a diverse array of media, are particularly notable for their contributions to contemporary art dialogue over the course of their careers. The exhibition will occupy two floors of the Museum, including the Joyce and Edward Linde Gallery, the Dewey Family Gallery, and two locations in the Sculpture Park, and is supplemented by an extensive array of programming, including interactive events and workshops.

The Biennial artists are: Academy Records, Ashley Bryan, Lois Dodd, Theresa Ganz, Carly Glovinski, Tanja Hollander, Timothy Horn, Fritz Horstman, Susan Howe, Heather Leigh McPherson, Youjin Moon, Kelly Nipper, Jason Noushin, Tobias Putrih, Cary Smith, and Craig Stockwell.

The exhibition features recent work as well as site-specific commissions. Fritz Horstman and Tobias Putrih are creating new outdoor works in the Sculpture Park. Installed on the lawn near the Museum building entrance, Horstman’s Formwork for a Spiral Movement is a large-scale wooden sculpture based on the flow of a river’s eddy. Walking along its passageways will encourage visitors to experience the merging of architecture and natural forces. Located near the Sculpture Park’s main entrance, Putrih’s interactive installation Double Exchange is comprised of stacks of red and gray bricks that visitors can rearrange during the course of the exhibition. The accumulation of changes to the installation reflects Putrih’s interest in art that is open-ended, flexible, and collaborative in its creation. On Saturday, September 17 from 1 to 3pm, Putrih will be hosting a drop-in workshop for visitors to activate the sculpture and speak with the artist about his process.
Throughout his career, the acclaimed Maine-based artist Ashley Bryan has sought to sustain African and African American musical and literary traditions. The Biennial will feature original collages from one of the artist’s most celebrated books, *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, along with a display of puppets created from natural materials found near his island home. The public is invited to Bryan’s special reading of his most recent book, *Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life*, on Friday, October 7 at 6:30 pm.

Two Rhode Island-based artists, Theresa Ganz and Heather Leigh McPherson, will host a joint gallery talk on Saturday, January 28 at 2 pm. Using both digital and manual techniques, Ganz constructs large-scale photo-collages of expansive geological facades. She manipulates her images by adding digital glitches and artificial colors, and adheres the prints directly to the gallery walls. McPherson will exhibit a new series of translucent hanging reliefs comprised of stained chiffon and drawings on spiral bound notepads embedded in clear epoxy. Through their viscous and tactile materials, the compositions convey a sense of vulnerability and intimate personal expression.

New Hampshire-based artist Carly Glovinski will lead a series of art-making workshops on January 17, February 7, and March 7 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Glovinski painstakingly recreates everyday objects that relate to outdoor leisure and the natural sciences, blending traditions of conceptual art and trompe l’oeil. Her work suggests a sense of nostalgia for the bygone rituals of American tourism and adventure in the great outdoors.

“The process of organizing the Biennial has been an immensely rewarding opportunity to showcase a compelling and diverse array of art-making in New England today,” note the exhibition organizers Jennifer Gross, Chief Curator and Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs, and Sarah Montross, Associate Curator. “We are also grateful to have connected with many curatorial colleagues who helped in our research process. We anticipate this exhibition will generate dynamic conversations about the richness and strength of contemporary art in the region.”

Support for the deCordova New England Biennial 2016 was generously provided by Robert E. Davoli and Eileen L. McDonagh, Geoff Hargadon and Patricia LaValley, Deborah A. Hawkins Charitable Trust, Barbara and Jon Lee, Joyce Linde, Amy and Jonathan Poorvu, and an anonymous donor.

Also opening on October 7, 2016 is Edward Steichen: Twentieth-Century Photographer, which will be on view in the James and Audrey Foster Galleries. The exhibition includes portraits of glamorous celebrities and socialites, still-life photographs of plants and flowers, dynamic cityscapes, and commercial advertisements. Also on view are Steichen’s portraits of fellow artists and writers that reveal his place among avant-garde cultural communities in New York and Europe. The exhibition explores his work as the head of the Naval Aviation Photographic Unit in World War II and traces his role as Director of Photography at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, where he curated over forty exhibitions. The aesthetic range of the images shows Steichen’s experimentation throughout his career with new techniques for lighting, composing, and printing photographs.
Jennifer Gross, exhibition curator, explains that “Steichen’s visionary ambition for photography in America had a profound influence. In researching the exhibition, it was impressive to note how forward-thinking and insightful Steichen was about the reach of the photographic medium in its ability to reflect humanity. He had the foresight to record the dramatic changes modernism would bring to the human experience.”

Exhibition-Related Programming Highlights

**DOUBLE EXCHANGE WORKSHOP WITH TOBIAS PUTRIH**
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, DROP-IN 1-3 PM**

**READING WITH ASHLEY BRYAN**
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 6:30 PM**
Biennial artist Ashley Bryan hosts a special reading and discussion of his newest book, *Freedom Over Me*.

**BIENNIAL PERSPECTIVES SERIES: CURATOR-LED TOUR OF THE DECORDOVA NEW ENGLAND BIENNIAL 2016**
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 7 PM**
Join the exhibition curators for a tour of the Biennial. Learn about select artists and the process of organizing a biennial exhibition. RSVP

**CURATOR-LED TOUR OF EDWARD STEICHEN: TWENTIETH-CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHER**
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 12 PM**
Jennifer Gross, Chief Curator, leads an in-depth tour of *Edward Steichen: Twentieth-Century Photographer*. Gain new insight into the Steichen’s impact on the history of photography. RSVP

**RAPPAPORT PRIZE LECTURE: BARKLEY HENDRICKS**
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 6:30 PM**
DeCordova presents a free lecture by New England artist Barkley Hendricks, recipient of the 2016 Rappaport Prize. Hendricks is known for his life-sized painted portraits of stylish urban people set against flat, single-color backgrounds. Created in 2000 and endowed in 2010, the Rappaport Prize is an annual art award presented by deCordova through the generosity of the Phyllis and Jerome Lyle Rappaport Foundation.

**ARE YOU HERE? WITH ARTIST JONATHAN GITELSON**
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, DROP IN 12–3 PM**
Join us in conversation and poster-making with artist Jonathan Gitelson whose *Are You Here?* project in the Sculpture Park is sparking discussion about both billboards and being present. For all ages.
BIENNIAL PERSPECTIVES SERIES: TOUR WITH ICA CURATOR DAN BYERS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2 PM
Dan Byers, Mannion Family Senior Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, shares his insights on the Biennial.

BIENNIAL WORKSHOPS WITH CARLY GLOVINSKI
TUESDAYS, 6:30-8:30 PM
JANUARY 17
FEBRUARY 7
MARCH 7
Exhibition artist Carly Glovinski leads a series of art-making sessions. RSVP/fee

BIENNIAL PERSPECTIVES: ARTISTS IN DIALOGUE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2PM
Join Biennial artists Theresa Ganz and Heather Leigh McPherson for a lively and informative gallery talk.

On View

deCordova New England Biennial 2016
October 7, 2016–March 26, 2017

Edward Steichen: Twentieth-Century Photographer
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PLATFORM 16: Esther Kläs, Ferma (5)
March 1, 2015–June 01, 2017

PLATFORM 17: Stephanie Cardon, Beacon
July 8, 2015–June 1, 2017

PLATFORM 18: Jonathan Gitelson, Are You Here?
August 4, 2016–September 30, 2017

About deCordova

Established in 1950 and located just twenty miles west of Boston, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum is dedicated to fostering the creation and exploration of contemporary sculpture and art through a dynamic slate of rotating exhibitions, innovative learning opportunities, a constantly changing thirty-acre landscape of large-scale, outdoor, modern and contemporary sculpture, and site-specific installations.
General Information

DeCordova’s summer hours (Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day weekend) are every day, Monday through Sunday, from 10 am to 5 pm. DeCordova’s winter hours (beginning after Columbus Day weekend) are Wednesday through Friday, from 10 am to 4 pm, and Saturday and Sunday, from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission: $14 for adults, $12 for seniors, $10 for students (ages 13 and up), and free for children 12 and under. Members, cyclists, Lincoln residents, and active duty military personnel and their families are admitted free of charge with proper ID. Visit decordova.org or call 781.259.8355 for further information.

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