Four new projects open at deCordova this summer
PLATFORM series continues, Collection showcased, and art by Western Mass stone carver on view

Lincoln, MA, April 11, 2014—In addition to lead exhibitions Lesley Dill and Ian Hamilton Finlay: Arcadian Revolutionary and Avant-Gardener, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum is pleased to present several new projects on view indoors and out this summer. These focused installations include PLATFORM 13: Roberley Bell, The Shape of the Afternoon; PLATFORM 14, Alix Pearlstein, The Park; Tim de Christopher’s The Fruit of our Labors; and Language as Inspiration: Works from deCordova’s Permanent Collection.

DeCordova’s long-standing PLATFORM series continues with two innovative projects by artists Roberley Bell and Alix Pearlstein, each opening Friday, May 16. PLATFORM is a series of exhibitions by early- and mid-career artists from both the New England and national arts communities. These shows engage with deCordova’s unique indoor and outdoor spaces and social, geographical, and physical location.

DeCordova’s Rappaport Roof Terrace and adjacent gallery will be transformed into a fantastical faux sculpture garden in PLATFORM 13: Roberley Bell, The Shape of the Afternoon. Amoeba-shaped Astroturf, real and fake flowers, abstracted bird decoys, plastic fruit, resin planters, and Blob sculptures will come together in Bell’s colorful comingling of nature and its synthetic counterpart. In addition to her outdoor gardenscape, the artist will also transform the adjacent interior gallery into a domestic scene with plush carpet, painted walls, and shelves displaying a still-life tableau.

Bell’s work questions the natural in daily life by placing the copied, altered, and designed flora of the built landscape in direct relationship to living nature. Through brightly hued material juxtapositions, her installation The Shape of the Afternoon challenges the distinction between natural and artificial, and explores the human desire to control the surroundings.

PLATFORM 14: Alix Pearlstein, The Park features the New-York based artist’s newest major work, a three-channel video conceived for and filmed at deCordova as a composite “portrait-in-flux” of the Sculpture Park. Projected in deCordova’s Dewey Family Gallery, The Park brings the outdoor experience inside to create an uncanny reflection of the visitor’s encounter with art and nature.

The video installation portrays a single area of the Sculpture Park from three distinct viewpoints. In each scene the camera moves forward at a careful but unrelenting pace, absorbing and rearranging the ‘cast’—the institution’s ground, actors, and sculpture. Installed in the round, the videos will emanate outward, giving the viewer in the center of the gallery the illusion of ever-expanding space.
Heavily influenced by Minimalism, dance, and cinematic history, Pearlstein’s videos explore performance within everyday spaces and environments. She choreographs actors and her camera in equal measure to create distilled moments of familiar strangeness; common actions are made anew through performed and repeated gestures. The Park presents the Sculpture Park as a site of contemplation, scrutiny, and mystery.

In addition to the new PLATFORM projects, Tim de Christopher’s The Fruit of our Labors will be on view in deCordova’s The Square gallery beginning Saturday, June 28. De Christopher works in the tradition of stone carving, creating large-scale narrative sculpture and installations. Previously installed at Oxbow Gallery in Northampton, Massachusetts, his continually evolving work The Fruit of Our Labors explores the labors of man over the course of a lifetime.

The new iteration of this installation at deCordova is a large, timber-framed structure containing carved stone sculptures and weathered found objects. Evocative of an ancient Greek temple, the structure acts as a monument: its items metaphorically pay tribute to a life lived, representing ideas that are both deeply personal and universally experienced. De Christopher calls the work “in part an autobiographical narrative… it is about our legacies as well as our experiences through life.”

On view in the 2nd floor galleries will be Language as Inspiration: Works from deCordova’s Permanent Collection. Opening Friday, May 16, this selection of works from the Permanent Collection celebrates the written word and its role as a longstanding inspiration to artists working in all mediums. Whether found or constructed, language catalyzes the imagination.

Artists whose works will be in the exhibition include Thomas Barrow, Bruce Barry, Allan D’Arcangelo, Robert Cottingham, Jim Dow, Lalla Essaydi, Walton Ford, Lee Friedlander, Al Hansen, Charles “Teenie” Harris, Sister Corita Kent, Emmett McDermott, Larimer Richards, Jon Sarkin, Aaron Siskind, Joseph Wardwell, and Andrew Witkin.
Exhibition Schedule

**PLATFORM 13: Roberley Bell**  
May 16–October 6, 2014  
Rappaport Roof Terrace and adjacent gallery

**PLATFORM 14: Alix Pearlstein, The Park**  
May 16–October 13, 2014  
Dewey Family Gallery

**Tim de Christopher’s The Fruit of Our Labors**  
June 28–November 2, 2014  
The Square, adjacent to deCordova | Store

**Language as Inspiration: Works from deCordova’s Permanent Collection**  
May 16–October 13, 2014  
2nd floor galleries

**Artist Talks**

**Meet the Artist: Roberley Bell**  
Thursday, June 5, 6:30 pm

Join artist Roberley Bell for a discussion of how her project explores issues of gardening, design, the great outdoors, and the world of fine art and sculpture. Moderated by Assistant Curator Lexi Lee Sullivan.

$10 | Free for Members  
[Registration](#) is required.

**Meet the Artist: Alix Pearlstein**  
Saturday, September 27, 2 pm

Join artist Alix Pearlstein and actor and playwright Masha Obolensky, featured in *The Park*, for a discussion about performance and landscape in conjunction with Pearlstein's project. Moderated by Curator Dina Deitsch.

Free with admission or Membership.

**Meet the Artist: Tim de Christopher**  
Saturday, June 28, 2 pm

Join artist Tim de Christopher for a discussion of his continually evolving installation inspired by his own past that explores the labors of man over the course of a lifetime. Moderated by Koch Curatorial Fellow Samantha Cataldo.

Free with admission or Membership.
About the Artists

Roberley Bell (born 1955, Massachusetts) lives in New York. She attended the University of Massachusetts and received her MFA from Alfred State College, SUNY. Bell's work has been exhibited internationally, including at the State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow; Dieu Donne Gallery, New York; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; and Paul Petro Gallery, Toronto. She is the recipient of two fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, a Pollock Krasner Fellowship, and a Fulbright to the Netherlands.

PLATFORM 13: Roberley Bell is generously funded by James and Audrey Foster.

Alix Pearlstein (born 1962, New York, New York) lives and works in New York. She received her BS from Cornell University and MFA from Purchase College, SUNY. Pearlstein’s work has been exhibited internationally, including at Marfa Ballroom, Texas; Atlanta Contemporary Art Center; Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis; The Kitchen, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; The Center for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv, Israel; BAM / PFA, Berkeley, California; SMAK, Ghent, Belgium; Biennale de Lyon, France; and Museum of Modern Art, New York. She is a recipient of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts 2011 Grants to Artists Award. Pearlstein’s work will also be on display at Samson Projects in Boston, June 6–July 19, 2014.

Tim de Christopher (born 1954, Kentfield, California) lives and works in the village of Turners Falls in Montague, Massachusetts. He studied at The Cooper Union School of Art and Columbia University School of Architecture. De Christopher has had numerous public and private commissions, including by the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and The Jewish Museum, New York. In addition, he has had fellowships at Virginia Center for Creative Arts and Vermont Studio Center, and has received grants from Artist’s Resource Trust, LEF Foundation, Massachusetts Culture Council, Northampton Arts Council, and the Arts and Business Council of Greater Boston.

Tim de Christopher’s The Fruit of our Labors is generously funded by an anonymous donor.

About deCordova

Established in 1950 and located just 20 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 30-acre landscape of large-scale, outdoor sculpture, and site-specific installations.

General Information

Decordova is located at 51 Sandy Pond Road in Lincoln, MA. Summer hours (beginning Memorial Day weekend) are every day, 10 am to 5 pm. Winter hours (beginning Columbus Day weekend) are Wednesday–Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, and Saturday–Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is $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, private, and self-guided tours of the Sculpture Park and of the Museum are also available. Visit decordova.org or call 781.259.8355 for further information.