

# The Socrates Annual 2017 and the Emerging Artist Fellowship



SOCRATES  
SCULPTURE  
PARK



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Socrates Sculpture Park  
32-01 Vernon Boulevard,  
Long Island City, NY 11106 USA  
[socratessculpturepark.org](http://socratessculpturepark.org)



The Socrates Annual 2017  
The Emerging Artist Fellowship

The Artists

Joe Bochynski  
Paul Branca  
Tanda Francis  
Devra Freelander  
Doreen Garner  
Gordon Hall  
Tali Keren & Alex Strada  
Valerie Piraino  
Sreshta Rit Premnath  
Ronny Quevedo  
Amy Ritter  
Moeinedin Shashaei  
David B. Smith  
Laura Swanson  
Wang Xu



Socrates Sculpture Park  
Support & Thanks



# The Socrates Annual 2017

*The Socrates Annual* – formerly known as *The Emerging Artist Fellowship Exhibition* – is an annual exhibition of new public art that addresses the most urgent issues of today. It is unique in providing a platform for artists working in a variety of media to present new, experimental, and ambitiously scaled outdoor work, often for the first time. Rather than focusing on an over-arching theme, the *Annual* features a wide spectrum of new formal and conceptual approaches to public art.

The works in the exhibition were made on-site in the Park's outdoor studio area over the course of summer 2017 during the months of the Emerging Artist Fellowship. This group of artists joins the ranks of over 250 artists who have received artist fellowships for producing work at Socrates since the Park's inaugural artist grant in 1995.





# The Emerging Artist Fellowship

The Emerging Artist Fellowship (EAF) is an annual cornerstone of Socrates Sculpture Park's visual arts programming, widely acclaimed for the ambition, breadth, and innovation of selected contemporary works. A singular opportunity for rising artists to experiment with large-scale public art, EAF provides 15 artists with an open studio, monetary support, and institutional guidance.

From June through September, EAF artists worked on-site, negotiating the physical and conceptual challenges of production in the Park's outdoor studio space, culminating in the Socrates Annual.

The artists were selected by Socrates Executive Director, John Hatfield and Director of Exhibitions, Jess Wilcox, and the Park's 2017 Curatorial Advisors: Eugenie Tsai, the Barbara and John Vogelstein Curator of Contemporary Art, Brooklyn Museum, and Melissa Levin, former Vice President, Cultural Programs, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. The current EAF17 artists will join the ranks of EAF alumni such as Orly Genger (EAF04), Cui Fei (EAF12), and Sanford Biggers (EAF01).

Joe Bochynski

# POTUS

Tile on concrete

3 x 6 x 6 feet

Evoking an excavation or burial of a United States presidential seal, this piece is at once an exploration of contemporary civics, artificial artifacts, and political symbols. Rendered in intricately cut tile in the opus sectile mosaic tradition, partially concealed and riven apart, *POTUS* interrogates American aesthetics of power and speculates about what politics leaves behind.







G

El Train West







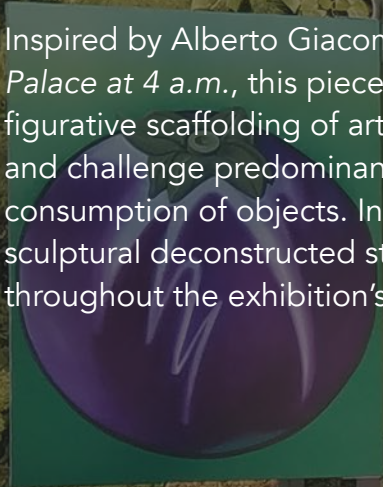


Paul Branca

# Fruit Stand at 4 P.M. (D'APRES GIACOMETTI)

Wood support with programming of oil paintings on canvas  
12 x 18 x 7 feet

Inspired by Alberto Giacometti's 1932 sculpture *The Palace at 4 a.m.*, this piece builds upon the literal and figurative scaffolding of art history to shed light on and challenge predominant modes of circulation and consumption of objects. Individual paintings in this sculptural deconstructed still life changed seasonally throughout the exhibition's run.













Tanda Francis

## *Take Me With You*

Concrete, steel, water

10.5 x 12 x 12 feet

Rendered in the tradition of monumental figurative sculpture, a head emerges from a pool of water. A cracked texture of desiccated earth creeps up the figure's neck, its eyes drawn upward and lips open as if anticipating a sip from the sky. Placed in sharp contrast with New York's East River, the work suggests the urgency in addressing the increasing scarcity of clean water, the most basic human need.















Devra Freeland

## *Fluorescent Sunrise*

Epoxy resin, pigment, and steel

6.75 x 13.5 x .25 feet

Pairing the semicircular form of a setting sun with the sensation of looking at an LCD screen, Freeland explores the contemporary sublime. The sun's orange-pink color gradient echoes the sedimentary accumulation of the earth's geology, conjuring various time frames—the 8-second digital media attention span, the 24-hour daily cycle, and the eons of the earth's life—and eliciting questions about the sustainability of contemporary living.











Doreen Garner

*Known But To God:  
The Dug Up, Dissected,  
and Disposed For the  
Sake of Medicine*

Glass, silicone, steel, epoxy putty, pearls, Swarovski crystals, and whiskey  
Dimensions vary: 12-15 x 8 x 8 inches each

These hanging glass sculptures reference show globes, early 20th century symbolic markers for pharmacies and apothecaries, typically hung in the window and filled with colored liquid. Their opulent exteriors belie abject contents: silicone body fragments floating in whiskey, alluding to the appalling history of medical violence inflicted upon black bodies.















Gordon Hall

# *FOUR HANDS*

Concrete

34 x 14 x 14 inches

Hall enlarges to seat-size the Ball and Claw design motif that is commonly found at the bottom of 18th century furniture and arranges them in the locations of the four feet of an enormous invisible Queen Anne style side table. These four furniture-animal hybrids hold the body of the sitter in an intimacy mirrored in the bird claw's grasp of the ball. Park visitors were invited to see *FOUR HANDS* in use on October 14, 2017.











Tali Keren & Alex Strada

# *National Park*

Wood, vinyl, ambient sound, and audio narrative

8 x 18 x 4 feet

This photographic and audio piece brings to Socrates the story of the defunct Presidents Park in Virginia that local businessman Howard Hankins relocated to his property. Visitors are invited to treat the work as a kind of theatrical stage where one can stand next to an image of past presidents, take selfies, and examine oneself in relation to these dilapidated yet steadfast symbolic monuments. Please listen to the audio narrative by visiting the website [www.socratesnationalpark.com](http://www.socratesnationalpark.com).













Valerie Piraino

## *A Year Around the Sun*

Wood lifeboat, metal, fibers, polystyrene, epoxy clay, and paint  
6 x 5 x 20 feet

Overlaying nautical knots and maritime objects in a shrine-like arrangement over a ghostly overturned boat, this piece is a memorial to the current refugee crisis in the Mediterranean Sea. Suggestive of both an aftermath of a wreck and a shelter, the piece is a poignant appeal for empathy.









LOVES BLIND MIA





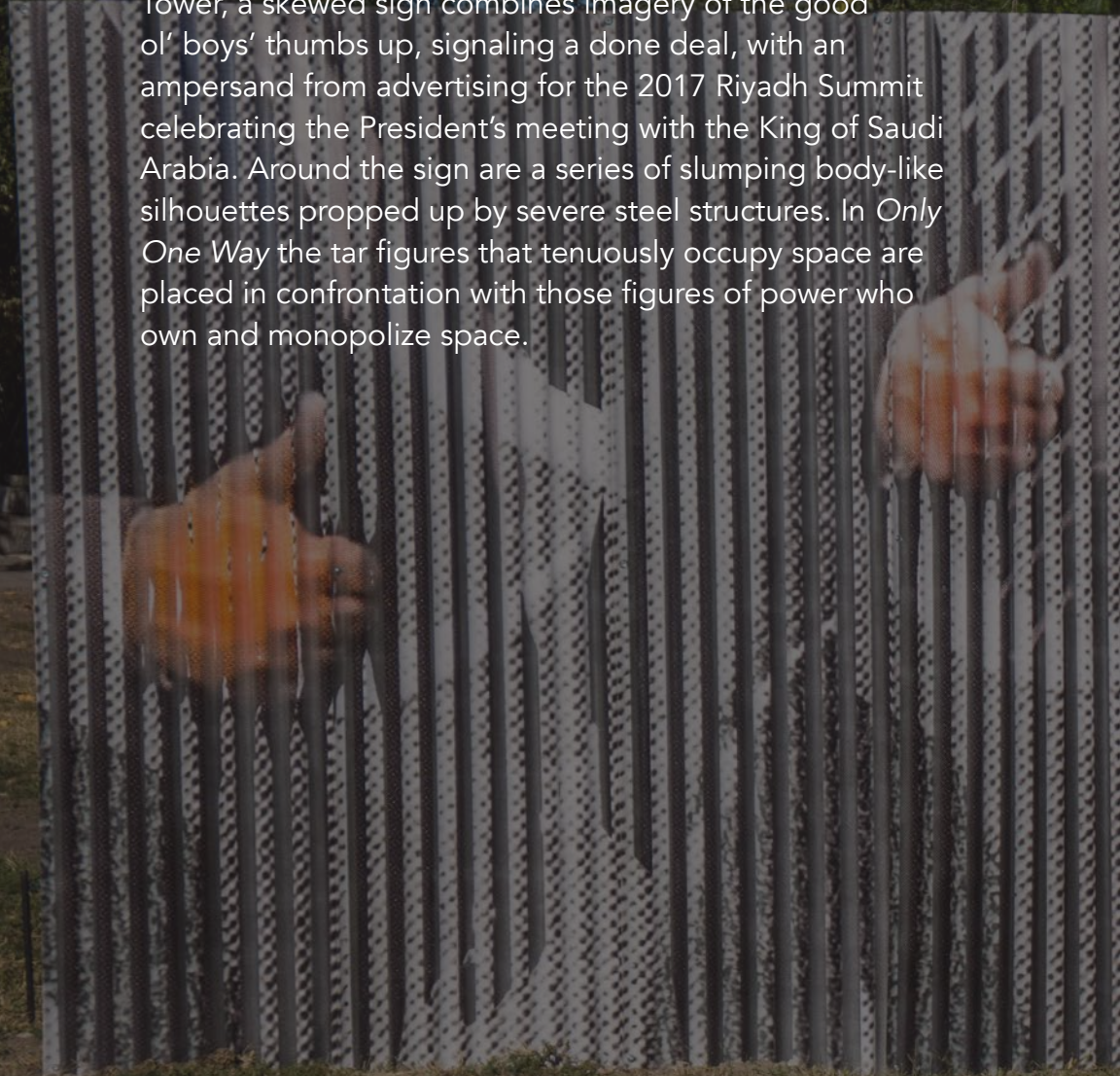
Sreshta Rit Premnath

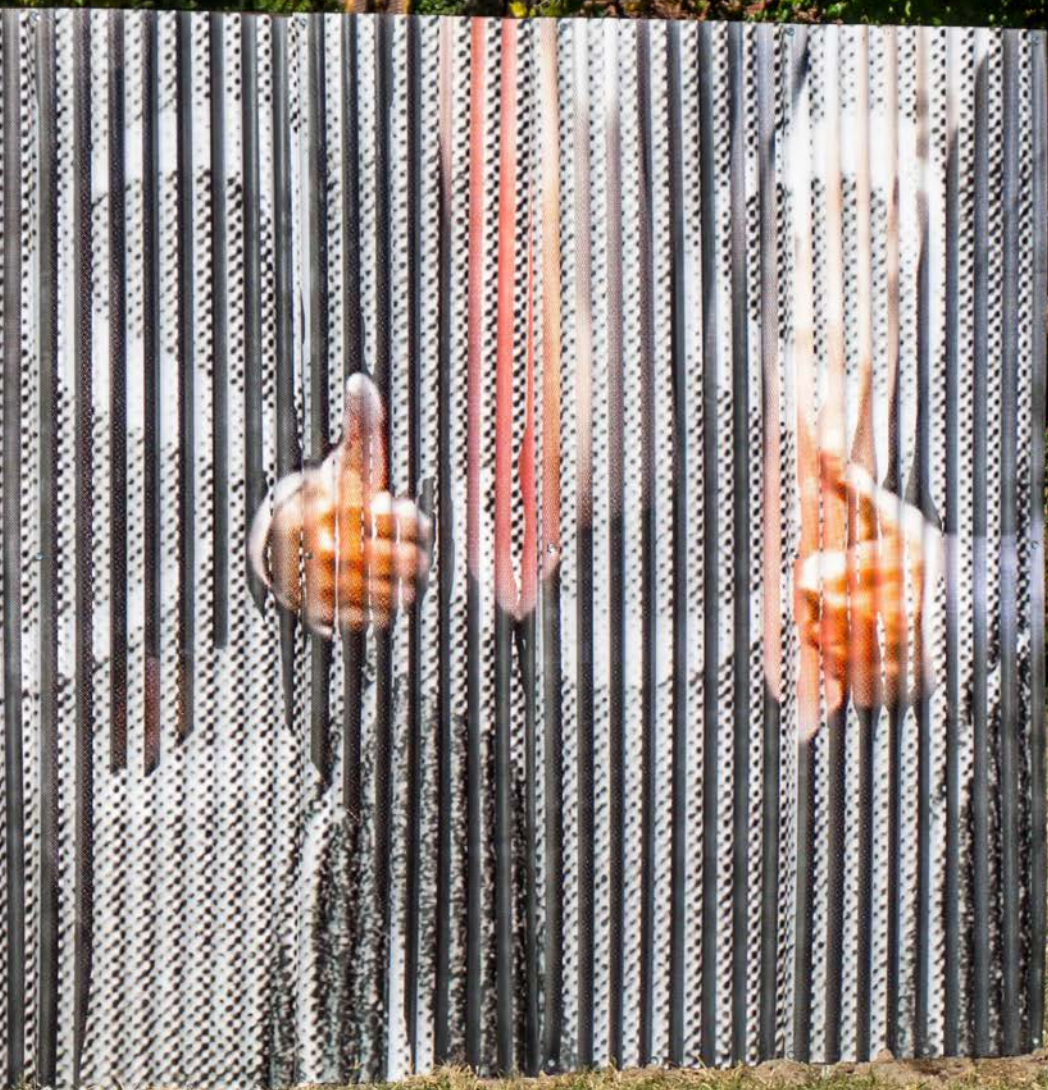
# *Only One Way*

UV print on plastic, steel, rubber, and sand

Dimensions variable

Referencing the advertising slogan of Mumbai's Trump Tower, a skewed sign combines imagery of the good ol' boys' thumbs up, signaling a done deal, with an ampersand from advertising for the 2017 Riyadh Summit celebrating the President's meeting with the King of Saudi Arabia. Around the sign are a series of slumping body-like silhouettes propped up by severe steel structures. In *Only One Way* the tar figures that tenuously occupy space are placed in confrontation with those figures of power who own and monopolize space.













Ronny Quevedo

## *Equatorial Shifts*

Wood gym flooring, milk crates, enamel, steel pole, and gold leaf  
20 x 13 x 12 feet

This installation mimics the space of an indoor basketball court with a hoop that references improvisational play and the decagonal structures found in the playing fields of ancient Mayan temples, and horizontal drawings suggestive of the Nazca Lines. By simultaneously employing and destabilizing visual vocabularies associated with games and architecture, Quevedo examines how displaced cultures shape the urban landscape of New York City.













Amy Ritter

## *Single Wide*

Fully equipped with landscaping, front walkway, staircase, oil tank, electricity, and water hook up

7 x 19.5 x 46 feet

Within the dimensions of a standard mobile home plot, Ritter combines all the amenities and embellishments that make a site a home, including regular lawn maintenance and seasonal decorations. The uncanny of an empty lot displaced in a city park can be understood as a reminder of the lack of equitable, sustainable housing as a problem for both urban and rural American communities.





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# NEW HOMES



3201 Vernon Boulevard

584 SQ. FT.

Singlewide Lot

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- Fully landscaped
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- Water/ sewage hook up
- Free events.



Welcome to Socrates, a quaint all-ages community built on a former landfill in a beautiful pastoral setting. Our friendly neighborhood has a close family of residents who enjoy our great amenities and activities. Join us at Socrates, a comfortable, affordable place to call home. Long Island City is westernmost residential and commercial neighborhood of New York City borough of Queens that boasts a thriving cultural scene, outdoor recreation, convenient shopping and excellent schools. Long Island City also offers easy access to Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Long Island. Visit us and discover the fantastic town of Long Island City today!



Socrates Sculpture Park  
3201 Vernon Boulevard  
Long Island City, NY 11106  
info@socratespark.org

<http://socratessculpturepark.org/artist/amy-ritter/>

# TAKE ONE

SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK





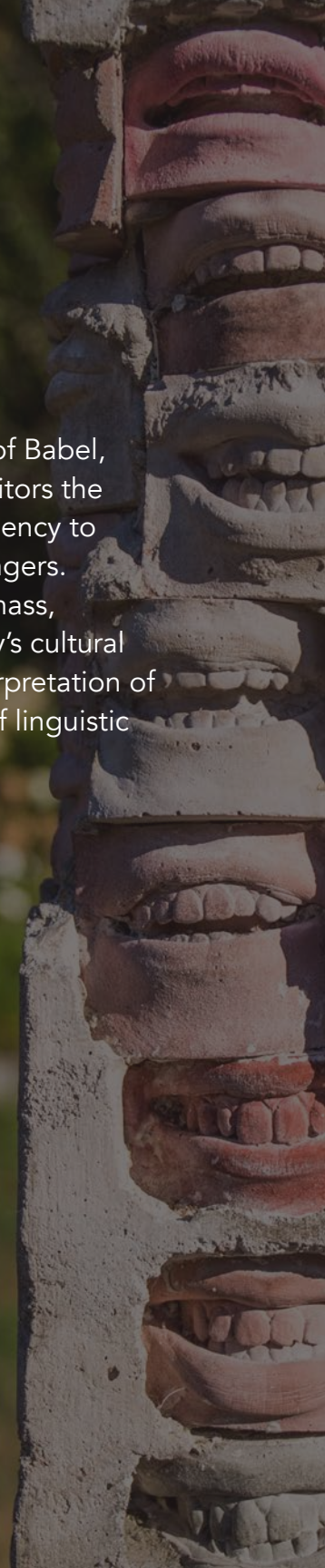
Moeinedin Shashaei

## *Unum*

Concrete and pigment

16 x 2 x 2 feet

This piece, suggestive of the mythical Tower of Babel, captures the facial expressions of Socrates visitors the artist cast over the course of his summer residency to commemorate public exchanges among strangers. With hundreds of distinct smiles unified in a mass, *Unum* presents an optimistic view of humanity's cultural differences, contrasting the predominant interpretation of the biblical myth that frames God's creation of linguistic difference as punishment for hubris.















David B. Smith

## *Digital Skin*

Wood, digital vinyl prints, polyethylene foam, and nylon rope  
12 x 26 x 22 feet and 8 x 7 x 5 feet

Smith places visitors in the role of scientific explorers encountering creatures that appear to hail from both the biological and digital realms. Composed of rigid wooden 'bones' woven with the soft 'flesh' of recycled Socrates billboard images, the installation delivers an enveloping environment evocative of the immersive, enmeshed, and omnipresent digital realm.



day

e.17

Center

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& MECHANICAL INTO THE

CROSSROADS





Thursday & Sunday  
May 7 - September 11

KIN THE TUBS

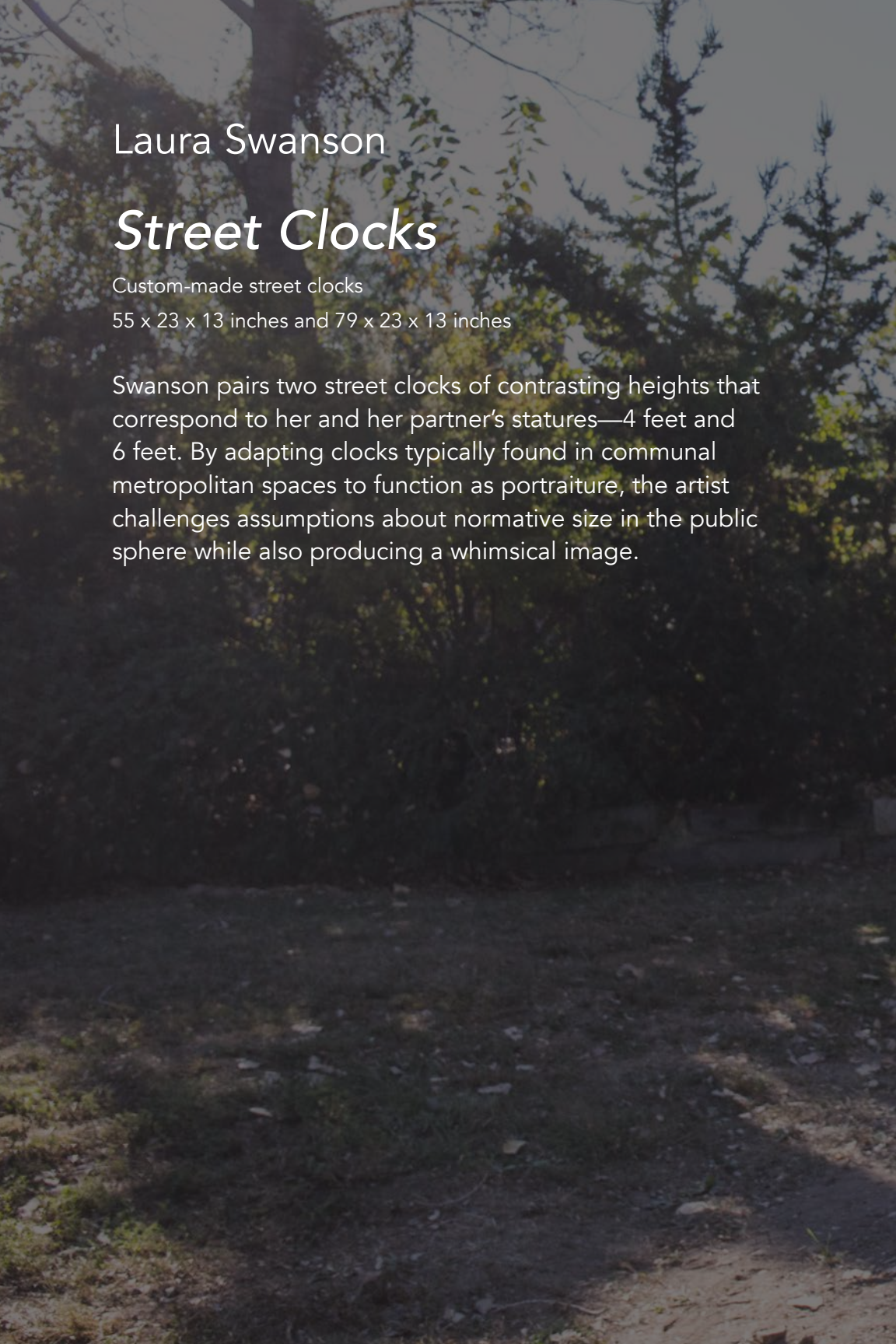
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GRBY  
GREAT



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Laura Swanson

## *Street Clocks*

Custom-made street clocks

55 x 23 x 13 inches and 79 x 23 x 13 inches

Swanson pairs two street clocks of contrasting heights that correspond to her and her partner's statures—4 feet and 6 feet. By adapting clocks typically found in communal metropolitan spaces to function as portraiture, the artist challenges assumptions about normative size in the public sphere while also producing a whimsical image.



NEW YORK

NEW YORK



NEW YORK

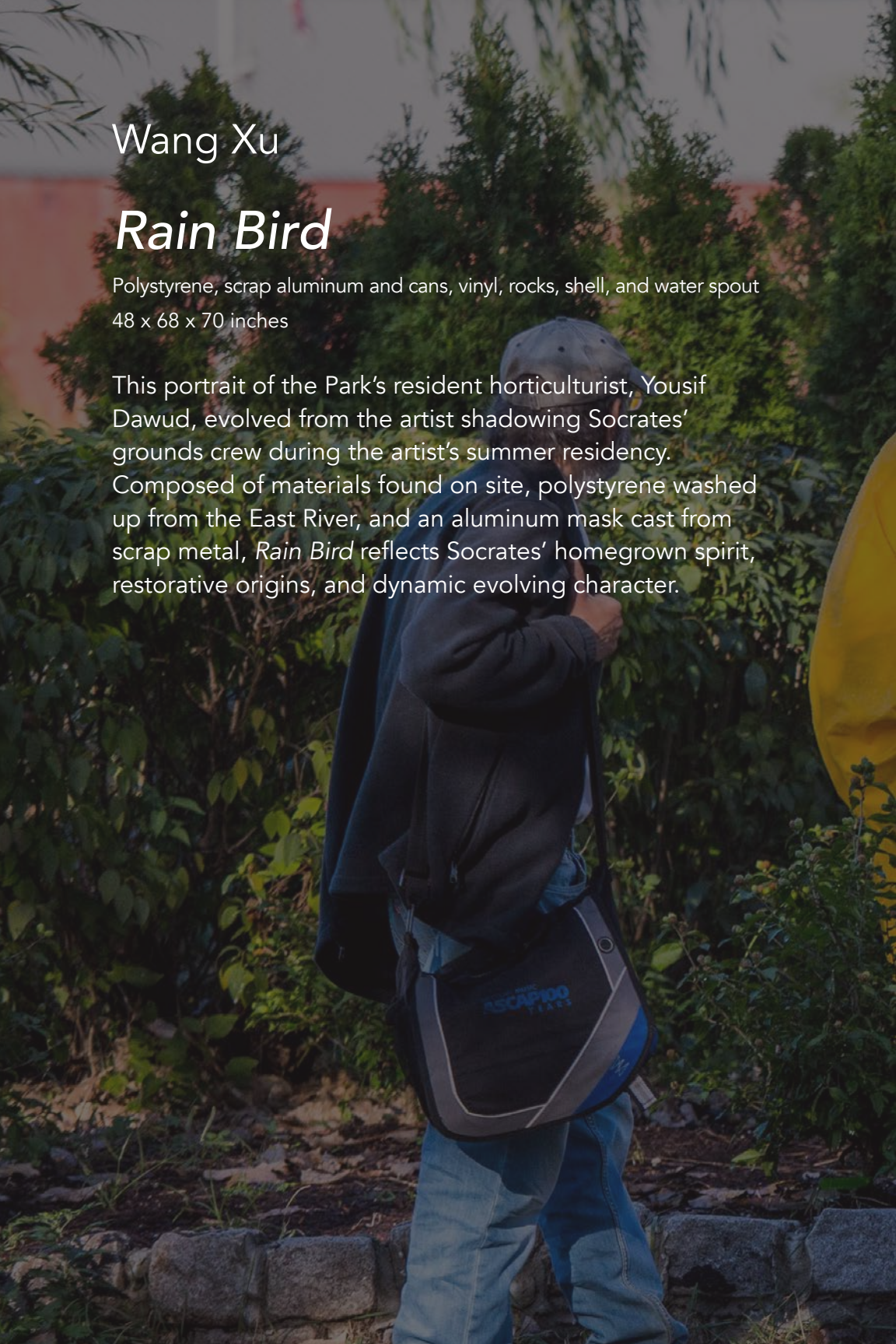




NEW YORK







Wang Xu

## *Rain Bird*

Polystyrene, scrap aluminum and cans, vinyl, rocks, shell, and water spout  
48 x 68 x 70 inches

This portrait of the Park's resident horticulturist, Yousif Dawud, evolved from the artist shadowing Socrates' grounds crew during the artist's summer residency. Composed of materials found on site, polystyrene washed up from the East River, and an aluminum mask cast from scrap metal, *Rain Bird* reflects Socrates' homegrown spirit, restorative origins, and dynamic evolving character.













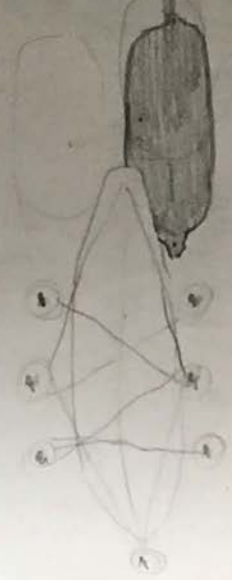
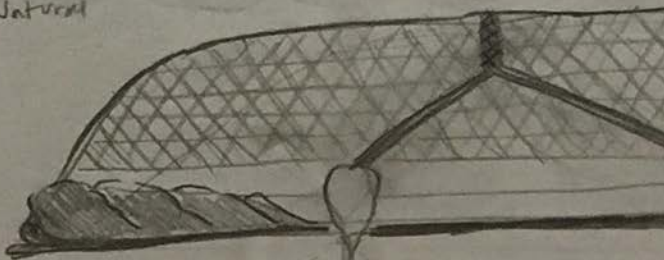
white → Fongo white



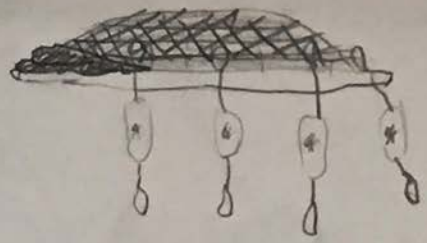
Black



Natural



Handwritten notes: "Fongo white", "Black", "Natural"

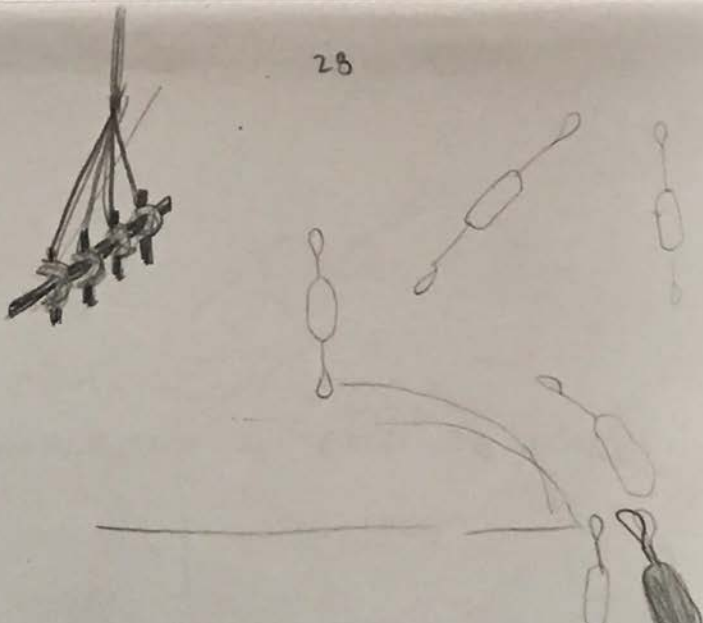


Process



spliced nose  
w/ intricate  
wrap  
around?

28

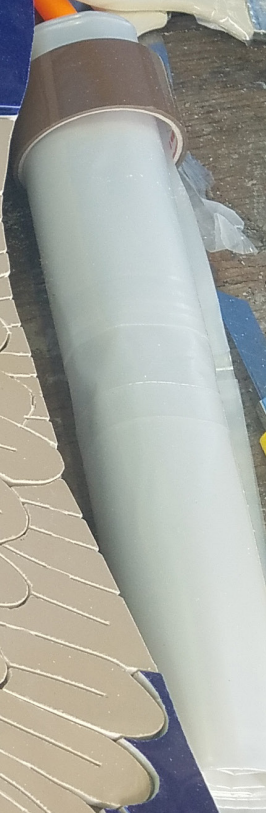




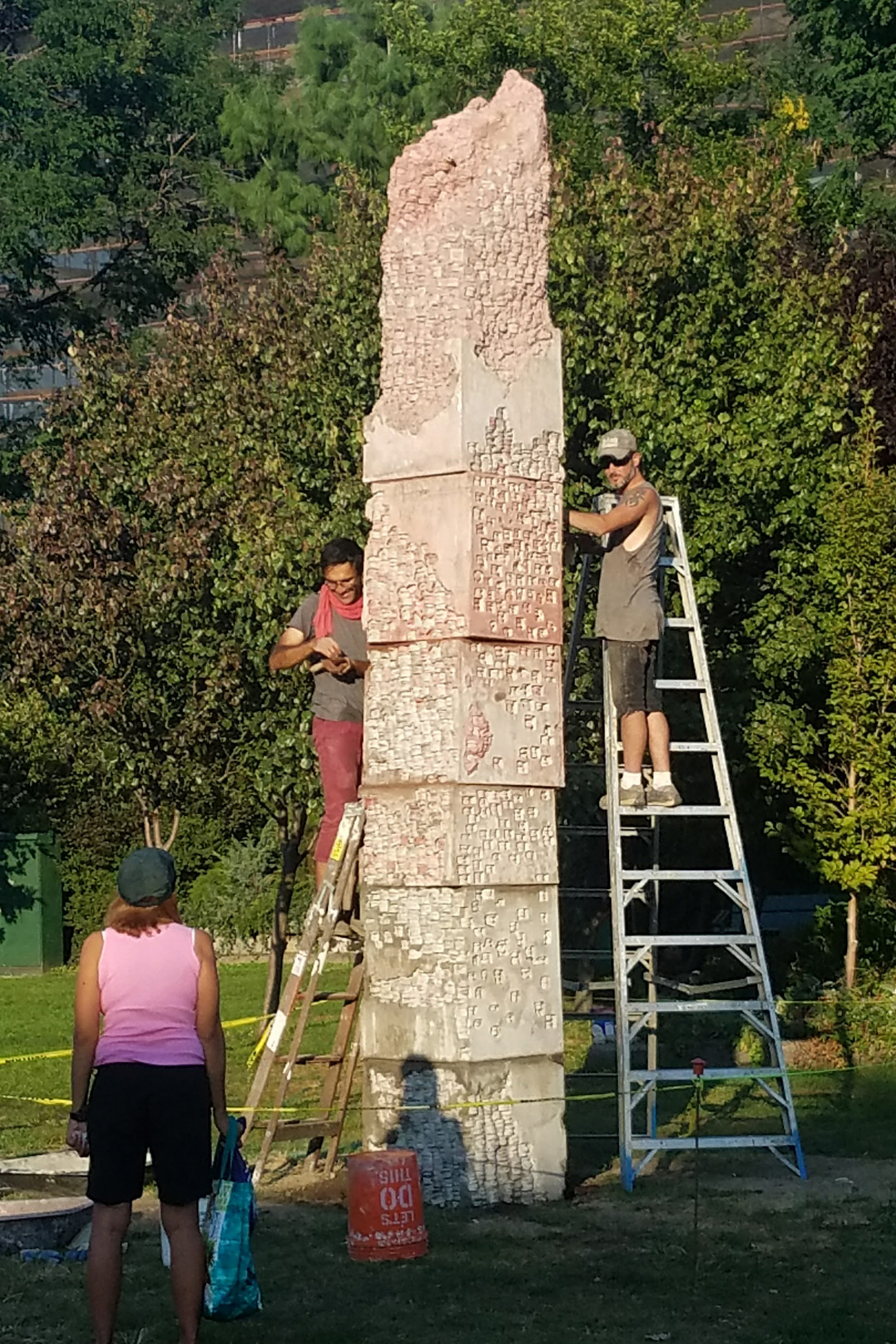










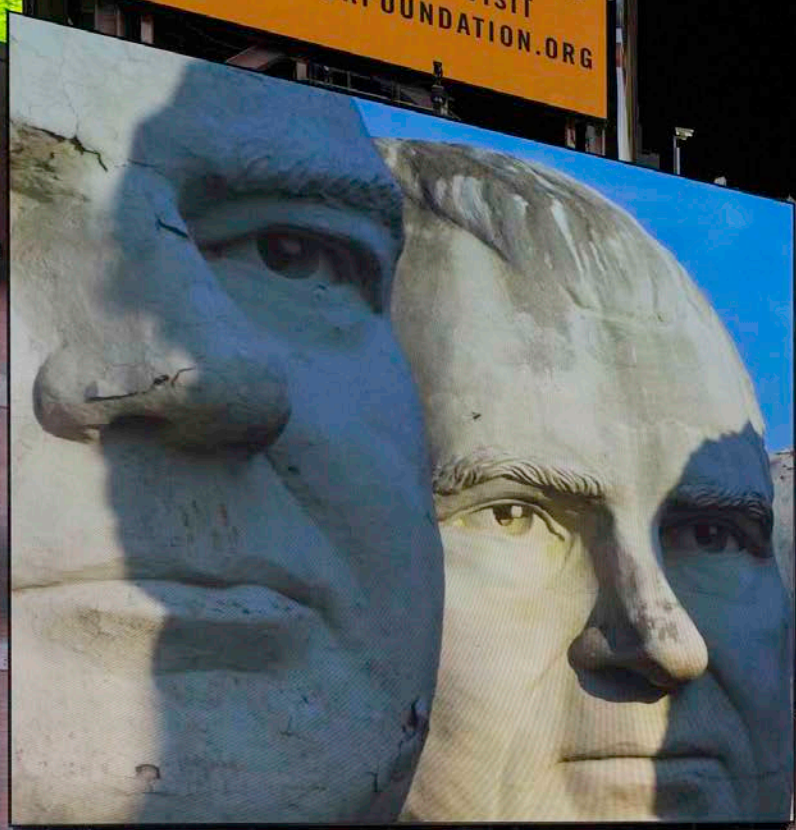








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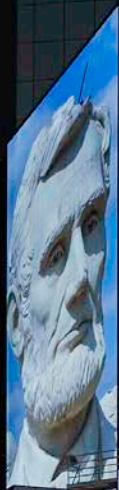
**BLUE FIN**  
SEAFOOD — SUSHI

**DOS CAMINOS** 

CLEAR CHANNEL

**Beautiful**  
The Carole King Musical





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# Socrates Sculpture Park

Socrates Sculpture Park is a community engaged New York City waterfront park dedicated to supporting artists in the production and presentation of public art.

Since 1986 Socrates Sculpture Park has been a model of public art production, community activism, and socially inspired place-making. Known for fostering experimental and visionary artworks, the Park has exhibited more than 1,000 artists on its five waterfront acres, providing them financial and material resources and outdoor studio facilities to create large-scale artworks on site.

Socrates is free and open to the public 365 days a year from 9am to sunset and is located at the intersection of Broadway and Vernon Boulevard in Long Island City, New York.

# Support

*The Socrates Annual* is made possible thanks to Jerome Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Lambent Foundation, the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, The Cowles Charitable Trust, and the Milton and Sally Avery Foundation, with additional support provided by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council as well as the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

The free artistic, cultural, and social programming at Socrates Sculpture Park is made possible, in part, by major support from: Milton and Sally Avery Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Charina Endowment Fund, ConEdison, Cowles Charitable Trust, Paula Cooper, Dr. Jonathan T. Deland and Emme Deland, Mark di Suvero, Sidney E. Frank Foundation, Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation for Art, Goldstone Family Foundation, Agnes Gund, Jerome Foundation, JPB Foundation, The Kayden Family, Lambent Foundation, Jo Carole and Ronald S. Lauder, Family of Phyllis and Bill Levin, the Henry Luce Foundation, Leon Levy Foundation, the Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation, Ronay and Richard Menschel, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Ivana Mestrovic, Nancy Nasher and David Haemisegger, The New York Community Trust, The Pincus Family Foundation, Joel Shapiro and Ellen Phelan, Plant Specialists, Leonard and Louise Riggio, the Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation, Silvercup Studios, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Smith, Zeitz Foundation, Spacetime C. C., and our Board of Directors, as well as many generous individuals.

Socrates Sculpture Park is grateful for the support of its generous and dedicated Board of Directors and Staff:

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## Photography

Images are courtesy of Argenis Apolinario, Scott Lynch, Sara Morgan, Ka-Ma Tse, Jess Wilcox, the artists, and Socrates Sculpture Park.

## Design

Anne Peng

All works are 2017.

All artwork descriptions are by Jess Wilcox.

Open daily from 9am until sunset

Free Admission

Web: [socratessculpturepark.org](http://socratessculpturepark.org)

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NEW YORK

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electric time





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