



deCordova Sculpture Park +
Museum
51 Sandy Pond Rd
Lincoln, MA 01773

Contact: Laurie J. LaMothe
Director of External Affairs
781/259-3628
llamothe@decordova.org

For Immediate Release

DeCordova Announces The DeCordova Biennial

January 23 – April 25, 2010

Exhibition Opening: Thursday, January 28 from 7 – 9 pm

Lincoln, MA, June 16, 2009 – This January, DeCordova Sculpture Park + Museum proudly announces the inaugural presentation of The DeCordova Biennial, a new exhibition featuring the work of seventeen New England artists. This exhibition will take over the majority of the Museum, offering visitors a unique opportunity to look at the work of artists from across the region. **The 2010 DeCordova Biennial** is a survey exhibition, focused on emphasizing the quality and variety of work rather than any single or overarching theme. The exhibition showcases artists who range from the emerging to the internationally acclaimed. Highlighting artists from across New England, the exhibition displays a range of approaches to different media, including innovative performance pieces, video installations, sculpture, painting, and photography.

For the past twenty years, DeCordova has supported the local New England arts community through **The DeCordova Annual Exhibitions**. The **2010 Biennial** is a revised presentation of this ongoing series. The Museum has revitalized this program by broadening its curatorial voice to include an advisory board of esteemed arts professionals from New England and by shifting to a two-year cycle. The **2010 Biennial Advisory Board** includes Mark Bessire, Director, Portland Museum of Art, George Fifield, Director, Boston CyberArts Festival, and Jennifer Gross, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Yale University Art Gallery.

“With The 2010 DeCordova Biennial, DeCordova continues to express its commitment to regional artists, but has dramatically sharpened its focus with an emphasis on quality. The **2010 Biennial** offers more variety and a much larger spectrum of artists” said Director Dennis Kois. “DeCordova is excited to collaborate with other esteemed professionals such as Mark Bessire, George Fifield, and Jennifer Gross. In broadening our curatorial voice, DeCordova will provide the public with more diverse perspectives on contemporary art

from other established members in the field, allowing our visitors to better engage with the discourse of contemporary art.”

The **2010 Biennial** exhibition sketches out the topography of the current landscape to highlight the most pressing themes in art-making today. It undertakes momentary ‘core samples’ by dipping into often overlooked yet vital historical figures that have impacted the region. Featuring fusions of art and science, the exhibition explores both internal and external terrains. Some artists investigate the relationship between art and “outer space,” while others remain focused on terra firma and the subjective, analyzing motifs of the body, critiquing excess and the relationship between the grotesque and the glamorous. In response to their anxieties about the contemporary world, artists return to utopian themes and ways of thinking. Others juxtapose modern-day concerns with both the past and the future as they map and chart personal, epistemic, and national histories.

“The goal of **the 2010 Biennial** is to provide a snapshot of the broad range of art practices that are currently happening in New England, while being mindful of the traditions that feed those very practices” said Assistant Curator Dina Deitsch. “Therefore, this exhibition includes both new and older work, emerging and more established artists, to better reflect the complexities and intricacies of this region’s rich artistic landscape.”

The **2010 Biennial** also hopes to collaborate with alternative exhibition spaces throughout New England to create multiple-site installations that link this Massachusetts-based exhibition with artistic hubs in Connecticut, Maine and Rhode Island, as well as sites in downtown Boston.

The following seventeen New England artists will be featured in **The 2010 DeCordova Biennial**:

Greta Bank, ME; Ross Cisneros, NH; Georgie Friedman, MA; Paul Laffoley, MA; Phil Lique, CT; Xander Marro, RI; Christopher Mir, CT; Liz Nofziger, MA; Oscar Palacio, MA; Otto Piene, MA; William Pope.L, ME; Randy Regier, ME; Ward Shelley, CT; Laurel Sparks, MA; Mark Tribe, RI; August Ventimiglia, MA; Karin Weiner, ME.

Organized by Assistant Curator Dina Deitsch, this exhibition will be accompanied by an exhibition catalogue. The 2010 DeCordova Biennial has been funded by the Deborah A. Hawkins Charitable Trust.

About DeCordova

Founded in 1950, DeCordova Sculpture Park + Museum was established to educate as broad and diverse a public as possible about modern and contemporary American art. With a 35-acre Sculpture Park that features more than 80 works, a robust slate of exhibitions, the largest non-degree granting studio art program in the state, and innovative interpretive programming, DeCordova is at the forefront of arts education as well as an exciting contemporary art destination.

DeCordova attracts more than 100,000 visitors from New England and tourists from around the world to its campus each year; trains 200 teachers in arts education; and enrolls 4,000 students of all ages in studio art classes in the Museum School. Known as an accessible contemporary arts museum, visitors engage Museum Guides in conversation about artwork on display, the artistic process, and other issues in contemporary art. DeCordova has 3,500 members and a unique Corporate Art Program which loans work by regional contemporary artists to more than 100 businesses in Massachusetts for public display.

General Information: DeCordova is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 am to 5 pm and on selected Monday holidays. General admission during Museum hours is \$12 for adults; \$8 for senior citizens, students, and youth ages 6–12. Children age 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 May to October. All guided public tours are free with Campus admission. Visit www.decordova.org or call 781/259-8355 for further information.

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