



# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2018

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## **Laumeier Sculpture Park Announces 2018 *In-Residence*: Poet Stefene Russell**

(ST. LOUIS, MO)—Laumeier Sculpture Park is pleased to announce 2018 *In-Residence*: Poet Stefene Russell, Culture Editor for [St. Louis Magazine](#) and a member of [Poetry Scores](#), an arts collective dedicated to translating poetry into other media, including visual art, music, food and film. Russell is the author of the chapbook *Inferna* (Intagliata Press, 2013) and *The Possum Codex* (Otis Nebula, 2015). She is currently working on a collection, *Lararium*, to be published in December 2018 (Spartan Press). Russell previously participated in Laumeier's *Poetry in Place* event in 2011.

"Laumeier's *In-Residence Program* supports our vision to serve as a gathering place for diverse social engagement—a 'cultural landscape' for the expression of a wide range of concepts, themes and ideas," says Laumeier Curator Dana Turkovic. "This year, we invite Stefene Russell to use the written word as a vehicle to isolate the meeting place between art and poetry, with the added inspiration of the Park's Outdoor Galleries and the natural, social environment."

Russell will participate in a variety of programs at Laumeier throughout the year, including several [Walking Tours](#), [Free Family Days](#) and [Conversation Series](#) events. She will also host a new summer series at Laumeier: *Picnic & Poetry in the Park*.

"It's really exciting to think about all the artistic chemical reactions that will happen this year," says Russell. "I can't wait to see what the poets come up with in response to the art. I can't wait to see what happens when people who aren't expecting to find poetry at Laumeier encounter it here. I want to show St. Louis what an amazing group of poets we have in this city—and I can't wait to see how poets start to think about their work differently by spending time at Laumeier."

Laumeier Sculpture Park launched its [In-Residence Program](#) in 2012 in an effort to bring other forms of social and intellectual artistic practice into the public spaces of the Park. *In-Residence* artists are chosen with the intent to deepen the exploration into topics and subjects relevant to Laumeier's cultural landscape and to complement thematic exhibitions.

## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

### **Cocktails & Conversation with Poet Stefene Russell: Fireside Poetry**

Thursday, March 22 / 6:00–7:30 p.m. / Free, Ages 21 and up

Enjoy a fireside poetry reading in the Park featuring local poets Luther Hughes and Treasure Shields Redmond, moderated by Laumeier's 2018 *In-Residence*: Poet Stefene Russell.

### **NEW! Picnic & Poetry in the Park**

Third Fridays, June–September / 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. / Free, Adult Audiences

June 15 / July 20 / August 17 / September 21

Bring your lunch (and a notebook and pen!) and join Laumeier's *In-Residence*: Poet Stefene Russell in the Park. Activate the outdoor space through performance, poetry and sculpture, and use big questions as poetry prompts.

### **Cocktails & Conversation with Poet Stefene Russell: New Territories**

Thursday, June 21 / 6:00–7:30 p.m. / Free, Ages 21 and up

Enjoy a poetry reading featuring local poets David Clewell, Paul DeMarinis and Kim Portnoy in response to Laumeier's current exhibition, [Farid Rasulov: 1001 Skewers](#). Moderated by Laumeier's 2018 *In-Residence*: Poet Stefene Russell.

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**Laumeier Sculpture Park: Engaging the community through art and nature** / Laumeier Sculpture Park is one of the first and largest dedicated sculpture parks in the country. Laumeier is an internationally recognized, nonprofit arts organization that is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and operates in partnership with St. Louis County Parks. Laumeier presents 60 works of large-scale outdoor sculpture in a 105-acre park located in the heart of St. Louis County. Free and open daily, Laumeier serves 300,000 visitors of all ages each year through sculpture conservation, education programs, temporary exhibitions and public events.