



For Immediate Release

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LAUMEIER SCULPTURE PARK ANNOUNCES A NEW ANNUAL SERIES OF FLAG PROJECTS, DEBUTING WITH ARTIST KIM BECK

At a Glance

WHAT: Laumeier is introducing an annual flag project for the 30-foot tall flagpole located in the Park’s Northern Grove. This new annual series will debut with *Here, 2021* by artist Kim Beck.

WHO: Kim Beck, an artist based in Pittsburgh.

WHEN: On view August 7 - December 19, 2021.

WHERE: Laumeier Sculpture Park, 12580 Rott Road, St. Louis, MO 63127. Outdoor Galleries, Northern Grove.

WHY: Used to designate significant sites and events or represent cultural and national identity, flags communicate complex ideas with minimal information. They signal import; convey place, values, beliefs, and history; and provoke a wide range of emotions. Laumeier’s new annual flag series commissions contemporary artists to re-imagine the traditional flag. The series pushes beyond the traditional expectations of sculpture and will present a variety of new perspectives, ranging from playful to thought-provoking.



Kim Beck, *Here*, 2021.

Detailed press release follows



ARTIST KIM BECK LAUNCHES NEW ANNUAL FLAG PROJECT AT LAUMEIER SCULPTURE PARK

St. Louis, MO – In August 2021, Laumeier Sculpture Park will debut a new series of flags titled *Here, 2021* by Pittsburgh-based artist Kim Beck. The three flags will feature patterns and textures captured from Laumeier’s landscape through the process of rubbings, a technique used to transfer surface texture onto paper. By literally and metaphorically elevating traces of the Park’s organic and built surfaces, Beck’s work will foreground aspects of the Park’s landscape that are often ignored or overlooked. The flags will be on view in Laumeier’s Northern Grove from August 7 – December 19, 2021.

To complete the project, Beck will partner with Laumeier’s Studio Practice Coordinator, Sarah Harford, who will work onsite to create multiple rubbings of a range of surfaces in the Park using newsprint and lumber marking crayons. This drawing-like technique will capture impressions to inform Beck’s finished piece. Once the rubbings are completed at Laumeier, they will be sent digitally to Beck to use in the design and creation of the flag for Laumeier.

In her artistic practice, Beck aims to bring the ordinary, often overlooked topographies and structures that make up our built environment into focus. As reflections and abstractions, Beck’s *Here, 2021*, elevates the status of something that is trod on, laid upon, or leaned against to something that is looked up to or even revered.

Regarding her work, Beck explains: “With a background in printmaking and drawing, I make images and things through a process of iteration, sketching and reworking. I work with multiples and repetition and use representation to question ways land can be constructed, changed and understood. Drawings are meditations on the structures and surfaces in the landscape. A pothole in the road jolts the traveler into seeing the landscape anew; the process of drawing it is a meditation on erosion and change, and it turns what was a banal eyesore into something sublime.”

“What a wonderful way to see the Park from a different perspective,” adds Laumeier’s Curator Dana Turkovic. “I am excited to see how Beck uses the gesture and movement most often associated with drawing to create a flag representative of the many materials and textures experienced while here at Laumeier. Within our green space is infrastructure such as paved trails, pathways and buildings that are equally meaningful and beautiful.”

Beck’s *Here* will be the first installment of an annual flag series at Laumeier that will feature commissioned flag artwork by national and international artists.

About the Artist

Born in Colorado in 1971, Kim Beck received her MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and BA from Brandeis University. Her work has been exhibited at the Walker Art Center, the Carnegie Museum



of Art, Socrates Sculpture Park, High Line NYC, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts and Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center. She has received Pollock-Krasner and Thomas J. Watson Fellowships, and awards from Ars Electronica, NYSCA, the Tennessee Arts Commission, and the Heinz Foundation. Her artist's book, *A Field Guide to Weeds*, was published through the Printed Matter Emerging Artist Publishing Program. She has been awarded residencies at the Bemis Center, Marie Walsh Sharpe Space Program, Yaddo, International Studio & Curatorial Program, Cité Internationale des Arts Paris, Vermont Studio Center, VCCA, The College of Fine Arts Sidney and Artists Image Resource with the support of the Heinz Creative Heights grant. Beck is an Associate Professor in the School of Art at Carnegie Mellon University.

Public Programs

FLAG MAKING at Discover Laumeier

Saturday, September 25 / 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. / FREE

Countries, states and cities all have flags that represent them. If you had a flag that represented YOU, what would it look like? At the September Discover Laumeier program, visitors will be able to use different art-making techniques to create a personalized flag.

VIRTUAL CONVERSATION / Meet the Artist: Kim Beck

Thursday, October 7 / 6:30 p.m. / FREE

Join Laumeier for an online conversation with Pittsburgh-based artist Kim Beck to learn more about her artistic practice and her flag project at Laumeier.

For the most up-to-date information on programs, please visit www.laumeier.org.

About Laumeier Sculpture Park

Founded in 1976, Laumeier Sculpture Park is one of the first and largest sculpture parks in the country. Laumeier presents more than 70 works of large-scale outdoor sculpture throughout its 105-acre campus. It serves 300,000 visitors of all ages each year, with a world-class art collection, indoor and outdoor temporary exhibitions, education programs and public events. Laumeier is an internationally recognized museum, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The 501(c)3 nonprofit organization operates in partnership with St. Louis County Parks. Laumeier is free and open daily year-round from 8 a.m. – 30 minutes past sunset.

Laumeier Sculpture Park's ongoing operations and programs are generously supported by St. Louis County Parks; Regional Arts Commission; Missouri Arts Council; Arts and Education Council; among other corporations, foundations, individual donors and members.

Additional funding related to COVID-19 relief has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Windgate Foundation, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the St. Louis County Small Business Relief Program.



2020-21 exhibitions are supported by Ellen and Durb Curlee, Alison and John Ferring, Jan and Ronnie Greenberg, Nancy and Ken Kranzberg, Joan and Mitchell Markow and Two Sister's Foundation, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, Mary Ann and Andy Srenco.

For more about Laumeier Sculpture Park, please visit www.laumeier.org

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