



For Immediate Release

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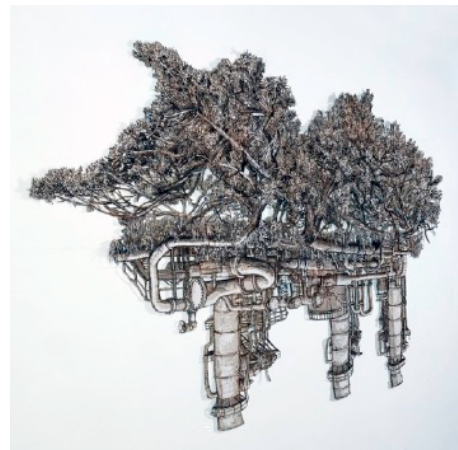
LAUMEIER ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST EXHIBITION OF 2021, *THE FUTURE IS PRESENT: ART AND GLOBAL CHANGE*

The Aronson Fine Arts Center will re-open on a limited basis for this exhibition

At a Glance

WHAT: A group exhibition that examines the intersections between art and global climate change. Through artworks, public programs and special events, many facets of the climate impact on our local and global environments will be explored.

Image: Hannah Chalew, *Embodied Emissions*, 2020. Iron oak gall ink, ink made from shells on paper made from sugarcane combined with shredded disposable plastic waste. 61 x 92 inches. Courtesy of the artist, New Orleans.



WHO: Perspectives on art and global change will come from a selection of artists and thinkers from around the globe.

WHEN: *The Future is Present: Art and Global Change*, will be on view from February 6 - May 9, 2021.

WHERE: The Aronson Fine Arts Center and Outdoor Galleries at Laumeier Sculpture Park, 12580 Rott Road, St. Louis, MO 63127. The Aronson Fine Arts Center will re-open to the public on a limited basis, following all current building capacity limits and safety guidelines outlined by St. Louis County. For the start of the exhibition, viewing hours will be Thursdays, 12-5 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. These hours may shift seasonally.

WHY: In keeping with its mission to “engage the community through art and nature,” Laumeier is making a commitment to explore one of today’s most pressing topics: the global impacts of climatic and environmental changes, examined through the lens of contemporary art and environmental issues.

Detailed release follows



For more information

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Laumeier Sculpture Park Examines Art and Global Climate Change Through Its 2021 Spring Exhibition

***The Future is Present: Art and Global Change* is on view February 6 - May 9, 2021**

St. Louis, MO – Laumeier Sculpture Park’s newest exhibition titled *The Future is Present: Art and Global Change* will examine the intersections between art and some of the world’s most pressing issues: climate change, environmental crisis and the related global repercussions. *The Future is Present* explores the innovation of artists and their commitment to understanding humankind’s material impact on nature and technology’s role in understanding this global emergency. The exhibition will be on view February 6 - May 9, 2021.

Continuing Laumeier’s initiative focusing on Art and Global Change, which began in 2020, *The Future is Present* will emphasize the urgency of topics ranging from deforestation and astronomical phenomena to tech waste. The artists assembled bring perspectives from across the planet, and they will use video, sound, virtual/augmented reality and upcycled materials to address this theme. Exhibiting artists are: Daniel Canogar (Los Angeles/Madrid), Hannah Chalew (New Orleans), Jake Chapman (London), Pete Froslic (Norman, OK), Jenny Kendler (Chicago), Van McElwee (St. Louis), Elias Sime (Addis Ababa), Calum Stirling (Glasgow) and Marina Zurkow (New York).

Here is a sampling of the work that will be on view as part of *The Future is Present*:

Fascinated with the relationship between global political and economic structures, Oklahoma artist Pete Froslic will exhibit his recent work *Leviathan: Elegy for Ice*, 2019, a two-channel video installation documenting the artist’s two, month-long expeditions to the Arctic Circle to collect underwater recordings of melting ice in Norway’s Svalbard fjords.

Chicago-based artist Jenny Kendler’s *The Playhead of Dawn*, 2018 reworks a massive dataset of geo-tagged birdsong recorded by citizen-scientists for the Xeno-canto project. Using LED screens to identify and locate over ten-thousand species of birds through a chorus of sounds, the installation provides a twenty-four hour chorus that loops in time with the rotation of the Earth—reminding visitors of the interconnected nature of our vast ecosystem.

The Future is Present will also feature a large wall mounted sculptural assemblage by Ethiopian artist Elias Sime. In his work, *TIGHTROPE: (31) While Observing...*, 2018, Sime repurposes salvaged electronic components such as wires, motherboards, electrical circuits and keyboards to create a piece that resembles an aerial view landscape. Made of e-waste, it explores the dangerous balance between the possibilities presented by technological progress and its harmful impact on the environment.



The exhibition will extend outdoors into the Park to cover some of the pieces already in Laumeier's Permanent Collection that address similar topics through material and/or site-specific sculptural interventions such as: Ian Hamilton Finlay, Robert Lobe, Tea Mäkipää, Jenny Price and Dré Wapenaar, among others.

According to Laumeier's Curator Dana Turkovic, the exhibition's title is inspired by a quote from Bertrand Picard, a co-pilot of the first solar powered balloon to attempt to circle the world non-stop. Turkovic says, "Describing his experience, Picard explained 'when landing, it was like going back to the past' realizing his ability to push the boundary of existing knowledge in his field of study."

She adds, "In the spirit of this ground-breaking exploration, the exhibition will examine the insights of artists, highlighting how the visual culture sector is not only reflecting our world back to us, but doing so through the lens of technology, taking charge on our environment and reminding us that our future is the present."

The Aronson Fine Arts Center, which was closed for most of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, will re-open to visitors on a limited basis for this exhibition. Safety protocols such as temperature checks, face coverings and capacity limits will be in place based on the current mandates from St. Louis County. For the most up-to-date information on hours, visit laumeier.org.

Public Programs

Multiple public programs—many free of charge—will be presented in conjunction with this exhibition. Depending on current St. Louis COVID-19 guidelines, these programs will be hosted in person or virtually. Visit laumeier.org for the most up-to-date information on programming.

EXHIBITION OPENING DAY / *The Future is Present: Art and Global Change*
February 6, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. / Aronson Fine Arts Center and Outdoor Galleries

CONVERSATION SERIES / Virtual Conversation with exhibition artists
Saturday, February 6 / 10 a.m. via Zoom / FREE

CONVERSATION SERIES / Virtual Conversation with Ben de Foy
Thursday, February 18 / 6:30 p.m. via Zoom / FREE

Join Dr. Benjamin de Foy, faculty in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at St. Louis University, for a discussion about the science of climate change as well as possible responses to it.

FAMILY WORKSHOP / Upcycled Candle Making

Ages 4 to 12, with an adult / Saturday, February 20 / 1–3 p.m. / \$35

Don't throw away your used candle jars just yet! Save old jars, mugs or tea cups for a creative afternoon of decoupage, glass painting and candle making with your family. Create a customized candle perfect for your next family gathering at the dinner table or patio.

CONVERSATION SERIES / Van McElwee

All Ages / Saturday, March 13 / 10 a.m. / FREE

Take an artist led tour to experience *Van McElwee: Time Fork*. This project uses Augmented and Virtual Reality technology to explore a new dimension at Laumeier. Using a phone or tablet, plus a free interactive app, visitors can navigate the natural, physical space of the Park while



simultaneously experiencing a digital world of the artist's imagination. Tour is approximately one hour. Limit 9 persons per tour. Reservations required.

FAMILY WORKSHOP / Upcycled Bird Feeders

Ages 4 to 12, with an adult / Saturday, March 20 / 1–3 p.m. / \$35

Construct interesting bird feeders from salvaged scrap wood, metals and more! Learn about native birds and their habits and construct a feeder for your backyard using materials that would have otherwise been sent to the landfill.

NIGHT OUT / Mud + Merlot: Ceramic Compost Pot

Ages 21+ / Friday, March 26 / 6:30–9:30 p.m. / \$54

Learn slab construction and explore surface textures and detailing to create a hand-made compost pot for your kitchen and eventually for your—well, *MUD!* Laumeier's monthly *Night Out* provides a fun and relaxed, adults-only environment in which to try your hand at working with clay. Pick up your finished piece at Laumeier the following week.

FAMILY WORKSHOP / Upcycled Garden Sculptures

Ages 4 to 12, with an adult / Saturday, April 10 / 1–3 p.m. / \$35

Create art that is unexpected and unique using recyclable and found objects! Learn about the importance of repurposing different materials while constructing interesting sculptures for your home garden or lawn. You may inspire your neighbors to do the same!

DISCOVER LAUMEIER

All Ages / Saturday, April 17 / 10 a.m.–2 p.m. / FREE

It's time to rethink our habits and reshape the world! Spend the day at Laumeier and learn ways you can help the environment. Enjoy music and fantastic food as you picnic in the shade, engage in outdoor activities and explore Laumeier's 105 acres of open fields and woodland trails. Visit the current exhibition, *THE FUTURE IS PRESENT: Art & Global Change*, create art from upcycled materials, learn about invasive species and the benefits of trees, and participate in a nature scavenger hunt.

Calum Sterling Performance / at Discover Laumeier

Listen to *The Future is Present* exhibition artist Calum Stirling's sound performance as he uses bio acoustic measuring equipment to translate the electrical activity of photosynthesis within a group of trees.

NIGHT OUT / Natural Dyed Scarves

Ages 21+ / Friday, April 23 / 6:30–9:30 p.m. / \$54

A cocktail and creativity make for a great night out! Create a unique, natural dyed silk scarf using a variety of colors. Experiment creating shapes and patterns that will definitely make a statement at the office or a formal gathering. Take home your eco-friendly scarf to show off or give as a gift to a friend, family member or coworker.

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

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 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.

The Future is Present is also supported by the Windgate Foundation and the Whitaker Foundation. *Van McElwee: Time Fork* is supported by and Mid-America Arts Alliance, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the state arts agencies of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas. Van McElwee is Laumeier's 2020 Kranzberg Artist. This fund, generously provided by Ken and Nancy Kranzberg, supports the presentation of new work by one St. Louis area artist per year.

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

Images

High-resolution images available upon request.



Marina Zurkow, *Mesocosm* (Wink, TX), 2012. Loan courtesy of the Thoma Foundation, Chicago.



Pete Froslie, *Leviathan: Elegy for Ice*, 2019. Custom software and electronics, multi-channel video, hydrophone recordings (Arctic ice). Duration: length of exhibition (computer-generated). Courtesy of the artist, Oklahoma City.



Jenny Kendler, *The Playhead of Dawn*, 2018. Sound software, LED screens. Dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist, Chicago.



Calum Stirling, *Players*, 2021. Bespoke data capture units, handmade musical instruments, radio senders and receivers, sound mixing desk, laptop. Sound performance, dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist, Glasgow.



Daniel Canogar, *Ráfagas*, 2019. Screen, frame, computer and generative animation, monitor. Courtesy of the artist, Los Angeles/Madrid.