



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Moeinedin Shashaei, Interlocutor, 2015-ongoing. Courtesy the artist.

SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK ANNOUNCES 15 ARTISTS SELECTED FOR 'THE SOCRATES ANNUAL'

EXHIBITION OF NEWLY CREATED WORKS TO OPEN AT SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK ON OCTOBER 1

New York, NY, (July 11, 2017) – Socrates Sculpture Park is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2017 Emerging Artist Fellowship, whose work will be presented this fall in *The Socrates Annual* exhibition. From now through September, 15 EAF artists are working on-site at Socrates' open-air studios, negotiating the opportunities and challenges of producing art in the public realm, and culminating in *The Socrates Annual* exhibition that will open to the public on October 1, 2017. The fellowship program and annual exhibition is a cornerstone of Socrates Sculpture Park's dynamic visual arts programming, and offers a singular opportunity for rising artists to experiment with ambitious, large-scale public art.

Through this fellowship Socrates annually provides 15 artists with an open studio, monetary support, and institutional guidance. The 2017 artists were selected through a highly competitive open call process that attracted 275 candidates, reviewed by the park's 2017 Curatorial Advisors: **Eugenie Tsai**, the Barbara and John Vogelstein Curator of Contemporary Art, Brooklyn Museum, and **Melissa Levin**, Vice President, Cultural Programs, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.



The 2017 artists are:

Joe Bochynski

Paul Branca

Tanda Francis

Devra Freeland

Doreen Garner

Gordon Hall

Tali Keren and Alex Strada

Valerie Piraino

Sreshta Rit Premnath

Ronny Quevedo

Amy Ritter

Moeinedin Shashaei

David B. Smith

Laura Swanson

Wang Xu

These individuals join the ranks of over 250 artists who have received fellowship grants for producing work at Socrates since the Park's inaugural grant in 1995 and the formalization of the Emerging Artist Fellowship in 2000. The culminating exhibition - *The Socrates Annual* (formerly known as *The Emerging Artist Fellowship Exhibition*) - is distinct in its mission to foster individual artist projects rather than present an overarching theme, and the current selected artists will join the ranks of EAF alums such as Hank Willis Thomas (EAF06), Wade Guyton (EAF03), and Sanford Biggers (EAF01).

The points of departure vary for the 15 artist projects selected for the 2017 *Socrates Annual*. Among the projects featured will be **Tanda Francis's** *Take Me With You*, which conjures the image of a head bowed to drink water, as if from the East River, and acts as a meditation on basic human needs and the resources often taken for granted. **Doreen Garner** investigates the dark history of medical violence against black bodies through a series of glass show globes magnifying bodily silicone fragments. **Gordon Hall** enlarges and transforms the ball-and-claw foot form, traditional in 18th century furniture, into seating for the public. Pairing a panoramic image of a field of crumbling busts of past American presidents with an audio component, **Tali Keren** and **Alex Strada's** collaboration calls into question common political and national narratives.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a digital catalogue to be added to a growing digital library of e-publications and videos available at socratessculpturepark.org/digital.

SUPPORT

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ABOUT SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK

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.

- socratessculpturepark.org

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