



## TWO ARTISTS WILL SHAKE THE GROUND AT SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK THIS SPRING BY UPTURNING THE LANDSCAPE AND NATURE ITSELF

The park has commissioned Heide Fasnacht and Gabriela Alberbaria  
To create new site-specific works opening May 17<sup>th</sup> alongside  
Agnes Denes's *The Living Pyramid*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Exhibition Dates:  
May 17 – Aug 30, 2015

Press Viewing:  
Saturday, May 16th  
6 – 8pm

Public Opening:  
Sunday, May 17th  
3 – 6pm

Park Hours:  
Open daily, 10am – dusk

Admission:  
FREE

New York, NY – April 4, 2015 – Socrates Sculpture Park is pleased to announce two new commissions that each draw upon the park's distinctive landscape and urban terrain to create original site-specific works. **Heide Fasnacht** and **Gabriela Alberbaria** today broke ground on two large-scale public artworks that make carefully devised complex connections between the social, scientific, and artificial.

### **Heide Fasnacht** *Suspect Terrain, 2015*

Through her latest public artwork, titled *Suspect Terrain*, Fasnacht details the creation and aftermath of a sinkhole. In Fasnacht's vision, the particularities of fragmentation span 30-feet above ground and are detailed in painted plywood, a stand-in for the cement, asphalt, and rock substrate that the sculpture maps. Fasnacht's surface was inspired by striking media coverage and documentation of massive sinkholes, including the 26-foot-wide by 52-foot-deep 2013 pit created in the Shenzhen region of China and the 2010 occurrence in Guatemala City, Guatemala, that spanned 60-feet-wide and approximately 30 stories deep. By sculpturally depicting these devastating geological occurrences, Fasnacht turns the relationship between event and documentation into a personal and precarious action.

Since the late 1990's Heide Fasnacht's work has explored shifting states of matter, ranging from exploding buildings (pre 9/11) to damaged artworks in wartime, to the present iteration: the consequences of crater formation. For Fasnacht, destruction is the impetus for building. As the artist states, "I take the collapse as a plan to reconstruct in however fractured a fashion. These become objects of reflection on the instability we now all live with, on the flux of life, and the ability to create none-the-less." Fasnacht's title references John McPhee's *In Suspect Terrain* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 1st edition, 1983), which a narrative of the earth through the geological lens of plate tectonics.

At Socrates Sculpture Park, the artist extends beyond the sinkhole's composition to question assumptions about the built environment, including the park itself. At the bottom of Fasnacht's sinkhole lies a house half-submerged in a pool of illusionistic water, an allegory using the language of geological events that simultaneously explores the park's unique history as an illegal dumpsite and landfill.

### **Gabriela Alberbaria** *Two Trees in Balance, 2015*

Gabriela Alberbaria's work involves one territory: Nature. Through drawing, photography, and sculpture the artist seeks to examine and deconstruct the cultural and social beliefs surrounding images of the natural. Alberbaria builds on these concepts with *Two Trees in Balance* at Socrates Sculpture Park, where she will

As part of her installation *Albergaria* will meticulously reconstruct dozens of branches and tree stumps salvaged from across New York City into two new trees, which she will hang diagonally off of the ground from a steel cable. Each tree hovers in-between the wall and the earth, poised in a precarious state by their own equal weight. Visually the piece implies suspended movement - simultaneous growth and decay - and the effort required to maintain that balance. With *Two Trees in Balance*, the artist manipulates preconceived expectations of what the natural should look like, as well as the fictional beliefs that we use to conjure the natural world.

***Suspect Terrain*** and ***Two Trees in Balance*** will open this spring alongside Agnes Denes's *The Living Pyramid* – the artist's latest earthwork that will span 30 feet at its four-sided base and ascend 30 feet high, created from several tons of soil and planted grasses. *The Living Pyramid* is Agnes Denes's first major public artwork in New York City in three decades since her iconic urban intervention, *Wheatfield – A Confrontation* in 1982.

## **SUPPORT**

Socrates Sculpture Park's Exhibition Program is made possible through the generous support of Bloomberg Philanthropies, Charina Foundation, Mark di Suvero, the Sidney E. Frank Foundation, the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation, Agnes Gund, Lambent Foundation, Ivana Mestrovic, Plant Specialists, Shelley and Donald Rubin, the Thomas W. Smith Foundation, Spacetime C.C., and Robert and Christine Stiller. Additional support provided by the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

## **ABOUT HEIDE FASNACHT**

Heide Fasnacht has shown an abiding interest in states of instability, uncertainty, damage, re-growth, and fracturing of materiality. These concepts have been explored through drawings, large-scale sculptures, photo-based work, and prints. Historical occurrences (wars & iconoclasm) and geological processes (earthquakes & explosions) show matter in action – shifting events. Deforming and reforming reveals fissures: damage and contortions on the landscape, in culture, in the built environment. Fasnacht's process reflects these shifting events in both content and process. Her works have most recently been on view at Preview Berlin, Qbox Gallery and Art Athina in Athens Greece, Kent Gallery, Smack Mellon, and the American Academy of Arts & Letters in NYC.

Since her first one-person show at P.S. 1 in 1979, Fasnacht has exhibited worldwide. She has been in exhibitions at MOMA, The Aldrich Museum for Contemporary Art, RAM Galerie, Rotterdam, Galeria Trama in Barcelona, The Worcester Art Museum and many others. She is in many permanent collections including: the MFA Boston, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, The Walker Art Center and the Yale University Art Gallery. Fasnacht is also the recipient of numerous awards, including The Guggenheim Fellowship, several National Endowment for the Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, The Gottlieb Foundation Grant, and two Pollock-Krasner Foundation Fellowships. She has taught at Harvard, Princeton, U Penn, UCLA, and others. Further visiting lectures include Yale, The Whitney Museum, RISD and VCU. [www.heidefasnacht.com](http://www.heidefasnacht.com)

## **ABOUT GABRIELA ALBERBARIA**

Since 1999 *Albergaria* has exhibited regularly around the world. Recent solo shows include in Galeria Vermelho, São Paulo and Hacienda La Trinidad Parque Cultural, Caracas, Venezuela (2013). Group exhibitions include Prickley, tender and steamy, Artists in the Hothouse, Wave Hill Garden, Glyndor Gallery, New York (2014), and "Do barroco para o barroco - está a arte contemporânea" Casa do Barro, Santiago de Compostela, Spain (2012).

Her work has been featured at the 1a Bienal de Montevideo (2012); Do Not Destroy, Trees Art and Jewish Thought, Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco (2012); Reverse Position (Invertir la Posición), Galeria Wu, Lima, 2012 ; Ecológica, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo (2010; kurs: the tree, Fuglsang Kunstmuseum, Toreby, Denmark (2009). Residencies include the Wave Hill Public Garden and Cultural Center (Winter Workshop 2012), Villa Arson, Centre National d' Art Contemporain , Nice, France (2008 ) and the University of Oxford Botanic Garden in collaboration with The Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art , Oxford (2009/2010). Albergaria is currently participating in a residency at Residency Unlimited in New York.

#### **ABOUT SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK**

For nearly three decades 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 900 artists on its five waterfront acres, providing them financial and material resources and outdoor studio facilities to create large-scale artworks on-site. Socrates Sculpture Park is free and open to the public 365 days a year from 10am to sunset and is located at the intersection of Broadway and Vernon Boulevard in Long Island City, New York. **Throughout the exhibition, the park will provide a free weekend shuttle service to/from nearby cultural attractions.**

**[socratessculpturepark.org](http://socratessculpturepark.org)**

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