

SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK AND THE ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE OF NEW YORK ANNOUNCE WINNER OF FOLLY 2015

Architectural team Mariana Ibañez and Simon Kim won first place among 126 submissions to realize a new structural strategy with *Torqueing Spheres*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Exhibition Dates:
May 17 – Aug 30, 2015

Preview:
Saturday, May 16th
6 – 8pm

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

Park Hours:
Open daily, 10am – dusk

New York, NY – March 18, 2015 – **Socrates Sculpture Park** and **The Architectural League of New York** are pleased to announce the winning proposal for the **2015 Folly Program** – an annual juried competition targeted to early career architects and designers.

Cambridge and Philadelphia-based firm **IK Studio** won this year's competition with their innovative proposal, *Torqueing Spheres*, which transforms a series of intertwining, sculpted forms into a meandering curved folly that encourages social interaction. IK Studio's proposal was selected from 126 submissions from around the world and reviewed by a jury of five esteemed architects and artists, including **David Benjamin** (The Living); **Leslie Gill** (Architect); **Sheila Kennedy** (Kennedy & Violich Architecture); **Alyson Shotz** (Artist); and Socrates Sculpture Park Executive Director **John Hatfield**.



Rendering, *Torqueing Spheres* by IK Studio

Torqueing Spheres combines a simple concept – a straight line – with complex spherical pods which become deep, self-supporting chambers to create experiences for both the collective and the individual. To construct the voluminous curves of *Torqueing Spheres*, IK Studio has implemented a material technique that uses a cost-effective method of bending plywood while maintaining a system of control and delivery. By blending folly formalism with innovative material techniques, IK Studio plays off of traditional architectural geometries to create new construction spaces that allow for exploration.

IK Studio is a young design and research practice that engages material performance, adaptable tectonics, spatial interaction, and robotics within architecture and urbanism. The practice was established by Mariana Ibañez and Simon Kim in parallel with their academic pursuits and teaching at Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania. In every project, IK Studio engages with multiple scales, establishing new forms of organization among immersive technologies and their relationships to design.

***Torqueing Spheres* opens at Socrates Sculpture Park in
Long Island City, Queens, on Sunday, May 17th from 3:00-6:00PM.**

ABOUT FOLLY

The Folly Program is an annual competition among emerging architects to design and build a large-scale project for public exhibition at Socrates. The program is directed jointly by **Elissa Goldstone**, the park's Director of Exhibitions, and **Anne Rieselbach**, Program Director, The Architectural League of New York.

Socrates and The League launched the annual Folly Program in 2012 to explore the intersections and divergences between architecture and sculpture. Through an annual juried competition, the program creates an opportunity for one emerging architect or designer to build a project in an urban, public realm. In the four years of the program, approximately 600 proposals have been submitted by architects from around the world. Previous winning proposals include *SuralArk*, 2014, by Austin+Mergold; *tree wood*, 2013, by Toshihiro Oki architect p.c.; and *Curtain*, 2012, by Jerome K Haferd and Brandt Knapp.

SUPPORT

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And special thanks goes to our public partners, including the City of New York, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Queens Borough President Melinda R. Katz, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, City Council Members Jimmy Van Bramer and Costa Constantinides, the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, Commissioner Mitchell Silver, and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl.

SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK

For over 25 years 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. Open 365 days a year, the park also offers a full season of dynamic public programming - all free and open to the public. www.socratessculpturepark.org

THE ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE OF NEW YORK

The Architectural League nurtures excellence in architecture, design, and urbanism, and stimulates thinking and debate about the critical design and building issues of our time. As a vital, independent forum for architecture and its allied disciplines, the League helps create a more beautiful, vibrant, innovative, and sustainable future. www.archleague.org