FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK REVEALS GUILLAUME LÉGARÉ, AMY KHOSHBIN AND ANNE CARSON AS WINNERS OF INAUGURAL COMPETITION FOR BROADWAY BILLBOARD

Welcome by Guillaume Légaré launches July 4th to commemorate ideas of the public, citizenship, collectivism, identity, and democratic freedoms

New York, NY, (June 27, 2017) – Socrates Sculpture Park is pleased to announce the 2017 winners of Open Call/Call to Action, the Park’s inaugural competition to present a Broadway Billboard at its main entrance. Two billboards by Guillaume Légaré and a collaboration between artist Amy Khoshbin and poet Anne Carson were selected from more than 250 submissions from across the globe.

The Park’s Broadway Billboard series launched in 1999 and has featured works by more than 30 artists, including Edward Burtynsky, Meschac Gaba, John Giorno, Douglas Gordon, Michael Joo, Los Angeles Urban Rangers, Wangai Mutu, Catherine Opie, Duke Riley, and Hank Willis Thomas.

The 2017 selection is the first time a Broadway Billboard will be presented through an open competition. Titled Open Call/Call to Action, the competition was launched in the aftermath of the 2016 election and asked proposals to address ideas of ‘the public,’ citizenship, collectivism, representation, and democratic freedoms.

Guillaume Légaré’s billboard, Welcome, will premiere on July 4, 2017, Independence Day, with a nostalgic and ambiguous scene of the ocean’s shore, evoking America’s complicated history of conquest, freedom, colonialism, opportunity, and immigration, as well as the ongoing arrival of displaced people. His image depicts an ordinary welcome mat that faces the viewer, whose perspective looks out toward the sea. The orientation of the mat may suggest that the sight of the sea as a welcoming tonic from the conflicts of contemporary, or a tribute to the dynamic interface where water meets land. Alternatively, taking into account current events, is the mat welcoming refugees after a perilous journey to escape violence and poverty? Or do the waves represent a strong political tide washing out to sea this message of hospitality?
Québec City-born Guillaume Légaré remarks, “New York City is a harbor city and as such, has a long history of welcoming immigrants. As a recent immigrant to the United States, I like to examine the relationship between us and the territory, both urban and natural.”

The second billboard will launch on November 7, 2017: Election Day. Titled *Word on the Street: Love Not Hatred*, the billboard is a collaboration between artist Amy Khoshbin and poet Anne Carson. The *Broadway Billboard* installment is part of Khoshbin’s ongoing series, *Word on the Street*, an all-female public art project in collaboration with Texas-based public art producer, House of Trees. Launched in response to the 2016 election, iterations of *Word on the Street* have appeared in a variety of forums, from major marches across Washington D.C. to the Whitney Houston Biennial.

*Word on the Street: Love Not Hatred* deftly captures the rising do-it-yourself nature of current resistance movements and offers the appearance of a handcrafted feel and felt texture. Located at Socrates Sculpture Park, the billboard celebrates the inclusive ethos of the Park, and its roots in community organizing. The title is Anne Carson’s translation of a line in Sophocles’ *Antigone*, a tragedy that explores the rule of law, familial duty, and civil disobedience.


**ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**Guillaume Légaré** is an artist and photographer who has exhibited widely including The Wassaic Project (NY), Curious Matter (Jersey City), The Bronx Museum (NY), Salon Jeune Création (Paris), and Quebec International Biennial (Canada). He has also been a recipient of numerous residencies and awards including Banff Art Center (Canada), CAMAC Art Center (France), Signal Fire Arts (Oregon, USA), Fire Island Pines Arts Program (NY), among others. He received his MA from Université Paris I- La Sorbonne in 2009 and BA from Laval University, Québec, Canada, in 2006. He works and lives in New York City.

**Amy Khoshbin** is an Iranian-American Brooklyn-based artist merging performance, video, collage, music, and fabric arts. She has shown her solo and collaborative work at venues such as Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Leila Heller Gallery, Abrons Arts Center, National Sawdust, Mana Contemporary, NURTUREart, and festivals such as River to River and South by Southwest. She has received residencies at The Watermill Center, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council’s Workspace Residency 2014-17, Anderson Ranch, Mana Contemporary, Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada, Team Effort! in Glasgow, Scotland, Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, and is a recipient of Rema Hort Mann Foundation Artist Community Engagement Grant. Khoshbin has bachelor’s degrees in Film and Media Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and a master’s degree from the Interactive Telecommunications Program at New York University.
Anne Carson has published numerous books of poetry, including *Float; Red Doc>*; *The Beauty of the Husband: A Fictional Essay in 29 Tangos*, winner of the T.S. Eliot Prize for Poetry; *Autobiography of Red*; and *Short Talks*. Also a Classics scholar, Carson is the translator of *Electra, If Not, Winter: Fragments of Sappho, and An Oresteia*, among others. She is also the author of *Eros the Bittersweet*. Her awards and honors include the Lannan Literary Award, the Pushcart Prize, the Griffin Poetry Prize, a Guggenheim fellowship, and the MacArthur Fellowship. She currently teaches in New York University’s creative writing program.

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.

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