SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK AND THE ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE OF NEW YORK ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF CIRCLE SHADE - $2\pi R^4$, THE WINNER OF FOLLY/FUNCTION 2017 DESIGNED BY EVA JENSEN DESIGN

Circle Shade - $2\pi R^4$ will be unveiled to the public on June 21, 2017 at the Park’s annual Summer Solstice Celebration


Circle Shade - $2\pi R^4$ will be on view and in action throughout the Park’s upcoming season. The shade structures will debut to the public during the Park’s annual Summer Solstice Celebration on June 21, 2017. On that day, the sun will be at its highest position in the sky – a fitting test of Circle Shade - $2\pi R^4$’s functional capabilities.

Responding to the 2017 competition’s challenge to create four portable, deployable canopy structures for flexible use throughout the highly active environment of Socrates Sculpture Park, Eva Jensen Design conceived a minimal and clean design that emphasizes simplicity and versatility, inspired by a fundamental shape: the circle.
Eva Jensen Design developed Circle Shade - $2\pi R4$ as a kit of seven parts that can be easily assembled to create a shading structure that incorporates outdoor furniture. Circle Shade - $2\pi R4$ consists of a unique combination of three main components – a circular canopy, tripod support poles attaching to cylindrical drum counterweights. The circular canopy is connected to the poles with custom-designed high strength structural 3D-printed joint nodes, designed and developed by Eva Jensen Design in collaboration with Laufs Engineering Design. The rigid canopy joint nodes are variably detailed and interlaced with the shade membrane to collectively pitch the canopy. 3D printing facilitates the affordable fabrication of the custom joint nodes.

These tilting canopies exude a playful character that complements the spirit of the Park. Circle Shade - $2\pi R4$ offers an unobstructed view of the Park and its vistas, and may be arranged in compelling clusters that provide broader coverage from the elements. Its cylindrical counterweights may be used as additional seating, display surfaces, or step stools during set up. Circle Shade - $2\pi R4$ also includes Socrates Sculpture Park's iconic I-beam logo printed on the canopy.

Jensen’s proposal was selected from submissions from around the world and reviewed by a jury of six esteemed architects, engineers, and artists, comprised of Tatiana Bilbao (Tatiana Bilbao ESTUDIO), Eric Bunge (nARCHITECTS), Mary Miss (Artist, City as Living Laboratory), Craig Schwitter (BuroHappold Engineering), Hayes Slade (Slade Architecture), and John Hatfield (Executive Director, Socrates Sculpture Park).

Eva Jensen described Circle Shade - $2\pi R4$: “A light and minimal tripod anchored to weighty feet lifts a circle shade radiating Socrates Sculpture Park’s character and the energy of a wheel. As a constellation in the landscape, a playful composition of dynamic structures emerges. It alludes to delightful dancing discs, spinning shadows, and captures cloud follies connecting ground with sky.”

Later in the summer, The Architectural League will publish a digital feature on archleague.org that examines the process of designing and constructing Circle Shade - $2\pi R4$ along with a look at notable entries to the Folly/Function 2017 competition. The League’s feature will become part of a digital catalogue Socrates Sculpture Park will publish this fall.
The final design included sponsored collaboration from several generous vendors: Truth Concrete developed custom concrete counterweights; Manhattan Shade & Glass fabricated, bound, and sewed the structures' membrane canopies; Reflect Printing and Graphic Design was responsible for printing the Park's logo on the canopy; and Phorm, Inc. CNC milled the Russian birch plywood counterweight seats and fabrication jigs.

SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION & Circle Shade - 2\pi R^4 UNVEILING

Socrates Sculpture Park celebrates the longest day of the year with an annual event comprised of art-making workshops along with outdoor activities and performances. This year’s Summer Solstice Celebration will also mark the unveiling of Circle Shade – 2\pi R^4.

To complement the unveiling and offer a glimpse into Eva Jensen Design's working process, an exhibition will be on view from 5PM featuring drawings and models of various scales. Material and test samples will present the design’s founding principles and trace its evolution from proposal to finished product. A demonstration of Circle Shade - 2\pi R^4's assembly will kick off at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 21, 2017
5:00 p.m. – dusk
Press Preview at 4:30 PM
Free. No RSVP required
32-01 Vernon Boulevard
Long Island City, NY

ABOUT FOLLY/FUNCTION

The Folly/Function program is an annual juried architecture competition to design and build a large-scale project for public exhibition at Socrates. The program is directed jointly by Jess Wilcox, the Park’s Director of Exhibitions, and Anne Rieselbach, Program Director at The Architectural League of New York. Socrates and the League launched the Folly competition in 2012 to explore the intersections and divergences between architecture and sculpture. In 2016, the competition was renamed Folly/Function and shifted in emphasis, asking entrants to fuse form with utility, creating designs that explore the intersection of art and architecture while addressing and improving the conditions of the Park. Previous winning proposals include Sticks, 2016, by Hou de Sousa; Torqueing Spheres, 2015, by IK Studio; SuralArk, 2014, by Austin+Mergold; tree wood, 2013, by Toshihiro Oki architect p.c.; and Curtain, 2012, by Jerome W. Haferd and K. Brandt Knapp.

SUPPORT

Folly/Function is a partnership between Socrates Sculpture Park and The Architectural League of New York. The program is funded, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

EVA JENSEN DESIGN

Eva Jensen Design is an award-winning New York-based architecture and design studio founded by principal Eva Christine Jensen, AIA, MAA. EJD offers an international experience rooted in the Danish design tradition, and works in a full range of design projects with a niche in high-end residential architecture and interiors, furniture design, and art installations. EJD emphasizes attention to detail and aspires to create thoughtful spaces that connect people to nature with a focus on light and cohesiveness striving for innovation and authentic design solutions.

- evajensendesign.com
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

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.

- archleague.org

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