

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK, DAVID ROCKEFELLER FUND
ANNOUNCE *THE LIVING PYRAMID* BY AGNES DENES

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Exhibition Dates:
May 17 – Aug 30, 2015

Preview:
Friday, May 15th
6 – 7pm

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

Park Hours:
Open daily, 10am – dusk

**Living Tribute to Art and Ecology at Socrates Sculpture Park
To Mark the 100th Birthday of David Rockefeller this June**

New York, NY – April 27, 2015 – **Socrates Sculpture Park** and the **David Rockefeller Fund** are pleased to announce a new grant in support of *The Living Pyramid* by New York City-based artist and environmental advocate, **Agnes Denes**. The artist's latest public artwork, which opens at Socrates Sculpture Park on May 17th, honors David Rockefeller's commitment to arts and the environment on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

The Living Pyramid will be a site-specific installation on the Park's East River waterfront in Long Island City, Queens. Created from wood, several tons of soil, planted grasses, and flowers, Agnes Denes's 30-foot high, curving pyramid will evolve throughout its public exhibition as the plant life grows. The project will be a participatory public artwork that will be activated by social and educational programs that encourage environmental awareness, custodianship, and activism. For the artist, such engagement inspires an ongoing moral obligation and commitment to protect our local and global environment.

The Living Pyramid will come to full bloom this June, when the family celebrates David Rockefeller's 100th birthday. To mark this special occasion, the trustees of the David Rockefeller Fund have provided a major gift to make possible Agnes Denes's living pyramid, as a meaningful gesture of Mr. Rockefeller and his family's philanthropic mission to support the arts and ecological stewardship.

"We are delighted about this partnership between Socrates Sculpture Park, Agnes Denes, and the David Rockefeller Fund," said **Michael Quattrone, Chairman of the Fund**. "We were looking for a fitting way to honor my grandfather and this was a wonderful opportunity to support Ms. Denes' living vision and Socrates Sculpture Park, a vital community arts institution."

Commissioned by Socrates Sculpture Park, *The Living Pyramid* is **the artist's first major public artwork in New York City in three decades since her iconic public artwork, *Wheatfield – A Confrontation* in 1982**, also on a waterfront landfill site of what is now Battery Park City in Lower Manhattan. At Socrates, her new installation will unite Agnes Denes's powerful environmental interventions with her ongoing exploration of pyramid structures - a form that has been central to the artist's practice throughout her long and distinguished career.

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“Socrates Sculpture Park is humbled and honored to be part of this extraordinary occasion for the Rockefeller family,” said **John Hatfield, Executive Director of the park**. “In their own ways, David Rockefeller and Agnes Denes share a lifelong commitment and belief in the power of art to influence and shape our world.”

Installation of the pyramid is underway for a **public exhibition May 17 – August 30, 2015**. **Socrates will host a press viewing on May 16th from 6 – 8PM, and a public opening on May 17th from 3 – 6PM, coinciding with New York’s Frieze Art Fair.** *The Living Pyramid* will remain on view through August 30th.

ABOUT AGNES DENES

Agnes Denes (b. 1931 in Budapest, based in New York) is a leading figure in American conceptual art and a pioneer of environmental/ecological art who rose to international attention in the Sixties and Seventies. Over the course of a pioneering, far-ranging career, she has employed a broad spectrum of languages and media to explore science, philosophy, linguistics, psychology, poetry, history, and music, in an artistic practice that weds aesthetics to social engagement. Her works, which are often on a monumental scale, bring together ecological, cultural and social concerns, forging an incredibly powerful dialogue between art, nature, and science. Denes has had over 500 exhibitions in galleries and museums around the world; she is also the author of numerous publications and the recipient of prestigious awards such as four National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships and the Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome, among others. She is a Fellow at MIT and Carnegie Mellon University and received honorary doctorates from Bucknell University and Ripon College.

ABOUT THE DAVID ROCKEFELLER FUND

The David Rockefeller Fund was established in 1989 by David Rockefeller and his wife Peggy to carry out their annual charitable giving in communities where they had homes outside New York City. In 2001, David Rockefeller expanded the Fund and invited his children and grandchildren and their spouses to take a more active role in the Fund with the idea of transferring to them the family’s philanthropic tradition. The Fund’s work provides a learning environment where family members are able to engage in dialogue and grant-making around shared topics of interest.

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.**

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