Socrates Sculpture Park and The Architectural League of New
York announce Josh de Sousa and Nancy Hou of Hou de Sousa
as winners of the annual Folly architecture competition with
inventive structure *Sticks*.

Hou de Sousa’s winning design will provide a hub for Socrates
Sculpture Park’s Education Studio, which hosts over 10,000 students
annually.

New York, NY, April 12, 2016 – Socrates Sculpture Park and The Architectural
League of New York are pleased to announce this year’s winning proposal for Folly,
an annual juried competition for architects and designers. The 2016 winner is the
New York City-based firm Hou de Sousa, with their inventive proposal *Sticks*.
Modeled to fit and complement existing site conditions, *Sticks* is a simple assembly of
standard dimensional lumber interconnected to form a structural frame for
educational and community use, as well as for providing art and material storage and
display space.

Hou de Sousa’s proposal was selected from submissions from around the world and
reviewed by a jury of five esteemed architects and artists, comprising Jarrod Beck
(artist and 2012 Emerging Artist Fellow), Stella Betts (LEVENBETTS), Lauren Crahan
(Freecell Architecture), Giuseppe Lignano (LOT-EK), and John Hatfield (Executive
Director of Socrates Sculpture Park).

In past years, the Folly program has investigated the intersection between sculpture
and architecture through the conceptual framework of “follies”—temporary structures
that intentionally served no utilitarian purpose. Marking the program’s fifth and the
park’s thirtieth anniversaries, Folly 2016 marks a departure from previous years’
competitions by asking entrants to design a functional structure to enhance the park’s public programs. The result is a durable design that explores the relationship between art and architecture, while also creatively enhancing the park’s education studio, where more than 10,000 students annually participate in art-making classes.

_Sticks_ utilizes preexisting park resources, including scrap materials stored on site, which will be incorporated into the structural grid of the walls and roof. The architects’ re-use of existing resources to build _Sticks_ is central to the sustainable mission of Socrates.

Throughout May and June this summer, Hou de Sousa will be in the park building _Sticks_, in full view of the public; this transparency of the creative process is a distinct component of the Folly program. _Sticks_ will be accompanied by a digital catalogue and unique editorial content hosted on archleague.org that details the project and process, featuring interviews with the architects and top proposals from the 2016 competition.

_Hou de Sousa_ is an award-winning New York-based architecture and design studio founded by Josh de Sousa and Nancy Hou. The office has completed a range of work, including private residences, restaurants, public spaces, and art installations. Their primary objective is to provide innovative design solutions which are culturally progressive and environmentally responsible.

_Sticks_ opens at Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City, Queens, on Saturday, July 09, 2016.

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 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 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.

Previous winning proposals include _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
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SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK
For thirty 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 1,000 artists on its five waterfront acres, providing them with 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 10 a.m. to sunset and is located at the intersection of Broadway and Vernon Boulevard in Long Island City, New York.

www.socratessculpturepark.org

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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.

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