Socrates Sculpture Park today announced the latest public art project to be presented at The Lot - a 10,000 sq. ft. green space and burgeoning arts site in Long Island City, Queens. The new installation, titled Backyard Pool by Tamara Johnson, playfully transforms The Lot into a place for unrequited pleasure by inserting a life-sized, but non-functional, pool into the landscape. Backyard Pool is presented by Socrates Sculpture Park, a sculpture park also in Long Island City known for presenting contemporary art in the public realm, and is made possible through the generous support of Rockrose Development Corp.

A concrete pool filled with grass, Backyard Pool continues Johnson’s exploration of themes such as displacement, forgotten spaces, and the reconstruction of home. Her first iteration, titled A Public Pool, was commissioned by Socrates Sculpture Park in 2013 for its Emerging Artist Fellowship Exhibition - an annual fellowship, residency, and exhibition program that provides artists the opportunity to create and present large-scale public art. On view at Socrates Sculpture Park from September 2013 – March 2014, Johnson’s A Public Pool was inspired by the aesthetic, nostalgia and geometry of nearby Astoria Pool - the city’s largest pool built in 1936.

Created specifically for The Lot, Backyard Pool builds on Johnson’s first pool and responds to the bustling surroundings of Court Square, Long Island City. With its kidney shape, 6-foot diving board, and ceramic tiles defining the edge, Backyard Pool resembles small family pools that are ubiquitous in many suburban backyards across the country, and especially in the artist’s hometown of Waco, Texas. Covering 329 feet of the landscape with these subtle additions, Johnson is attempting to transplant an intimate and domestic sense of space and play in an otherwise urban setting.

Despite the pleasant recollections the work may evoke, viewers will not be able to disregard Backyard Pool’s irony. Johnson at once summons desire for playful summer pastime while inciting discontent by her pool’s obvious dysfunction. In this new public space that has become everyone’s backyard, visitors are denied recreational pleasure and left with fading memories.
BACKYARD POOL OPENS AT THE LOT ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, FROM 3:00-5:00PM.

The opening coincides with the launch of THE LOT LIC MUSIC & FILM SERIES* – a new free, outdoor festival that will also take place in The Lot and run eight weeks through September 20th. Beginning August 2nd, the new festival will bring an eclectic mix of independent film screenings every Thursday and live music every Saturday, with exclusive catering by Michelin-rated, Long Island City-based M. Wells. A full schedule can be found on www.thelotlic.com.

Backyard Pool is the second collaboration between Socrates Sculpture Park and Rockrose Development Corp. to bring public art to The Lot. In 2013, the park presented The Lot’s inaugural art project, Parting, by architects Jerome W. Haferd and K Brandt Knapp, which was an architectural folly that connected chain links by a series of columns and beams topped by a triangulated canopy. Parting closed on June 1, 2014.

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ABOUT TAMARA JOHNSON / www.tamarajohnsononart.com
Tamara Johnson was born in Waco, TX. She graduated from the University of Texas in Austin in 2007 with a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2012 with an MFA in Sculpture. Her work is a mash-up of sculptural making, choreographic landscapes and performative actions in the public/nonpublic. All these devices attempt to solve her default place-making tendencies. Tamara currently works and lives in Brooklyn and Queens, NY.

ABOUT SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK / www.socratessculpturepark.org
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, Socrates has exhibited more than 1,000 artists on its five waterfront acres, providing them the financial support, materials, equipment, and space necessary to create large-scale works in the public realm. Open 365 days a year from dawn till dusk, the park is an epicenter of cultural programming, as a producer of contemporary exhibitions, a presenter of a multi-disciplinary performance series, and an educator of more than 10,000 children and teens each year - all free.

ABOUT ROCKROSE DEVELOPMENT CORP / www.rockrose.com
Rockrose Development Corp. is a family-owned and -operated real estate company with over four decades of experience. The company’s visionary outlook and hands-on approach as an owner, developer, and manager has established it as an industry leader that sets New York’s standard for quality real estate. Rockrose has earned a reputation for architectural distinction, sensitivity to local communities, and creative management. Many of Rockrose’s projects have received favorable public reviews and design awards by Landmarks and other governmental agencies. There are approximately 2,800 units in Rockrose’s residential-rental portfolio. Rockrose is perhaps best known for developing Chelsea Mercantile at 252 Seventh Avenue, as well Carnegie Hall Tower, the trophy office property on West 57th Street. In 2013, the firm opened Linc LIC, a 709-unit luxury rental building in Long Island City.

BACKYARD POOL WILL BE LOCATED AT 43-29 CRESCENT STREET IN COURT SQUARE LONG ISLAND CITY, QUEENS FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, FROM 10:00AM TO 6:00PM*

*ON SATURDAYS THROUGH SEPT 20, THE LOT WILL BE OPEN FROM 3–10PM, AS PART OF THE MUSIC SERIES*

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
By Subway: E, M to Ely Avenue; 7, G to Court Square. Walk north on 23rd Street, then make a right on 44th Road. Or take the N/Q to Queensboro Plaza. Walk south on 25th Street, then make a left on 44th Road.
By Bus: Q100 or Q69 to Queens Plaza/24th Street.

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