FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Opening at Socrates:
Built

On View:
May 6 – Sept 3, 2018
Open daily, 9am – dusk

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New York, NY (March 27, 2018) - Socrates is pleased to present Built, a Park-wide solo exhibition of newly commissioned works by Virginia Overton (b. Nashville, TN; lives in New York). The exhibition will feature several works made from found industrial materials and will be on view May 6 – September 3, 2018.

At the Park Overton transforms familiar materials—roof trusses, pickup trucks, wooden architectural beams, and a steel basin—into sculptural forms with new potency and dynamism. In these succinct elegant works, Overton addresses concepts of labor, economics, and land in today’s society.

The show’s largest piece is a crystal-shaped sculpture made of industrial truss systems and angle iron spanning 40 feet in length and 18 feet of height. Additionally, Overton transforms a 1990 Ford F250 pickup truck with a reflective glass bead surface, exploring the pickup as a tool and a symbol of mobility, ambition, and as a sculptural material. Considering the forces of gravity, momentum, and inertia, the exhibition also presents an industrial pine joist suspended from the Socrates artist studio’s homemade gantry. A water feature made from elements Overton has used in other exhibitions complements these works, drawing attention to the Park as part of larger ecosystems both physical (the East River Estuary) and social (the alternative art space community). Together these pieces reflect on our world’s shared physical properties and
systems, suggesting communal and environmental precariousness and evolution.

“Overton’s newly commissioned artworks for Socrates Sculpture Park echo our thirty-year history of transformation, reclamation, and labor that continues to be an ongoing effort here in the Park. In this way, Overton suffuses her own inventive and improvisational sensibilities with construction materials to reflect and amplify the ethos of this unique place in New York City,” said John Hatfield, Executive Director of Socrates.

A publication with full color images documents the exhibition and provides scholarship on Overton’s oeuvre focusing on her outdoor works with essays by Johanna Burton, Keith Haring Director and Curator of Education and Public Engagement, New Museum; Leah Pires, PhD Candidate, Department of Art History, Columbia University; and Jess Wilcox, Director of Exhibitions, Socrates Sculpture Park. The catalogue will be released in July 2018 and will be available for purchase through Socrates’ website. The publication is made possible by the Henry Luce Foundation.

SUPPORT

*Built* is organized by Socrates Sculpture Park and curated by Jess Wilcox, Director of Exhibitions. The exhibition is made possible with generous support from the Lambent Foundation, the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, White Cube and Bortolami Gallery. The exhibition is also supported, in part by public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts with support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

ABOUT SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK

For more than 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 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.

MEDIA CONTACT

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