

# Žilvinas Kempinas

## *Scarecrow*

SCULPTURE  
PARK

COVER





**SOCRATES  
SCULPTURE  
PARK**



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## *Scarecrow*

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Socrates Sculpture Park  
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Long Island City, NY 11106 USA  
[socratessculpturepark.org](http://socratessculpturepark.org)















# Foreword

Žilvinas Kempinas creates kinetic installations that generate imaginative volumes and expose unseen forms. Through the ephemeral elements of air, light, energy, and time, Kempinas investigates stasis and chaos, entropy and expansion within architecture and the landscape. His artworks are hypnotic visual experiences of geometries, patterns, and symmetries with formal and conceptual clarity.



aesthetic and perceptual experience. *Scarecrow* at Socrates Sculpture Park is Žilvinas Kempinas' first major outdoor installation in the United States. Known for his site-specific installations and controlled, minimalist works, Kempinas represented Lithuania at the 2009 Venice Biennale with an installation entitled *Tube*, and captivated audiences with *Double O*



Above: *Tube*, 2009; 53rd International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia (Lithuanian Pavilion), Venice, IT.

at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2010). Kempinas created his first outdoor sculpture for the Echigo Tsumari Art Field in Japan (2012), which was subsequently shown as a part of his solo exhibition, *Slow Motion*, at Museum Tinguely, Switzerland (2013). That work, made from Japanese snow-measuring posts and bird-repellant ribbons, was titled *Kakashi* – or “scare-



Above: Installation view: *Kakashi* 2012; Kloster Schonthal, Skulpturenpark, Langenbruck, CH 2013.

crow” in Japanese.

Blanketing a large portion of Socrates Sculpture Park’s 4.7 acres, the artist’s latest “scarecrow” expands on *Kakashi* in scale, shape, and setting.

Unlike his large-scale installations in museums, galleries, and biennials, where he carefully calculates and manipulates artificial and mechanical forces to create precarious equilibriums, Kempinas’ outdoor sculptures adapt and harness fluctuating environmental conditions, which are site-determined. While this fluidity creates endless possibilities for effect, the artist maintains a meticulousness in his process, establishing a series of set conditions upon







**“Air animates my pieces, which are meant to be kinetic. I like air because it’s always a little bit chaotic and invisible to the eye. But I like different things and different manifestations of energy. Sometimes it’s waves of wind, sometimes it’s light, and sometimes it’s the rhythm of a geometrical pattern.”** <sup>(1)</sup>

**-Žilvinas Kempinas**  
*Žilvinas Kempinas Slow Motion*





# *Scarecrow*

Žilvinas Kempinas' *Scarecrow* is a minimal yet magical active pathway that arcs methodically through the center of Socrates Sculpture Park. With two simple elements – poles and tape – *Scarecrow* responds to the invisible forces of nature, reflecting its surroundings and continuously changing throughout the exhibition.

The perpetual motion of the overhead ribbon, as it captures the wind currents, echoes the natural flowing of the nearby East River, while the mirrored tape reflects momentary shifts of light and sky; together, these elements create a shimmering horizon along the New York City waterfront.







“Like Richard Serra, Kempinas creates behavioral spaces. The meaning of the works therefore depends more on their relationship to the surrounding space and the viewer’s experience of their form. We have to walk, stop, turn, go back the way we came, take it in more slowly, look up, adjust our eyes, set off again and then only do they reveal their quintessence to us. These are works one of whose features is that they blur our sight and hence our sense of direction. An ironic view of the rigidity, angularity and aloofness of minimalist workmanship from the 1960’s - Kempinas’ art is all about perception.” (2)

-Karine Tissot

*Žilvinas Kempinas Slow Motion*



From a distance *Scarecrow* appears as a monumental single sculpture that is impressively precise and geometric, yet simultaneously ethereal and transparent. As you move closer to and through the installation, *Scarecrow* becomes an enlivened aural and visual experience of flickering light and whirring sound, as each ribbon captures the moving outdoor air and each pole pulls the surrounding landscape into itself.

On view throughout summer 2014 *Scarecrow* is largest single artwork in Socrates Sculpture Park's history. Covering more than 250-feet and standing thirteen-feet high, the installation is composed of 200 stainless steel, mirrored poles and over 6,000 feet of silver Mylar ribbon.

Ambitiously achieved with minimal

materiality across a tremendous scale, the installation is a wondrous sensory experience that embodies the power of a single artist to transform a landscape and elevate perception. With this installation, Kempinas compounds the sights, sounds, and motions of Socrates Sculpture Park into a hypnotic







**“an altogether profound experience that brings together art and nature, built and organic.”** <sup>(3)</sup>

- Faye Hirsch  
*Art in America*





# About

## ŽILVINAS KEMPINAS

Kempinas received his BFA from Vilnius Art Academy, Vilnius, Lithuania, in 1993, and his MFA from Hunter College, City University of New York, NY, in 2002.

He has received numerous awards, including the Calder Prize in 2007 and the Lithuanian National Culture and Art Prize in 2012.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Fifth Wall*, Budapest Mucsarnok, Budapest, HU, 2014; *Darkroom* K20 Grabbeplatz, Dusseldorf, DE, 2013; *Fountains*, Listasafn Reykjavíkur, Reykjavík Art Museum, Reykjavík, IS, 2013; *Slow Motion*, Museum Tinguely, Basel, CH, 2013; *Žilvinas Kempinas*, Galerie Leme, Sao Paulo, BR, 2012; *Lucid Dream*, Yvon Lambert, Paris, FR, 2011; *Still*, Garage, Centre For Contemporary Culture, Moscow, RU, 2011; *Žilvinas Kempinas*, Vartai Gallery, Vilnius, LT, 2011; and *Žilvinas Kempinas*,

Yvon Lambert, Paris, FR, 2011.

He has exhibited widely at renowned institutions, including Grand Palais, Paris, FR; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, US; The Liverpool Biennial, UK; Museum of Modern Art, New York, US; and the 53rd Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition representing Lithuania, Venice, Italy.

## **SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK**

For over 28 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 over 1,000 artists on its five waterfront acres, providing resources to create large-scale art works on-site.

Open 365 days a year, the park engages the surrounding community by offering art-making workshops for children, teens, and adults; family programming; a performance series; and an outdoor international film series — all free and open to the public.

The park's existence is based on the belief that creative expression is vital to the survival, humanity, and improvement of our urban environment.

[www.socratessculpturepark.org](http://www.socratessculpturepark.org)





# Support & Thanks



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Socrates Sculpture Park is grateful for the dedication and support of its Board of Directors and Staff.

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## **Photography**

Images are courtesy of Nate Dorr, Žilvinas Kempinas, and Socrates Sculpture Park

## Quotations

1. Kempinas, Žilvinas, and Roland Wetzel. "Art as a Manifestation of Energy: Roland Wetzel in Dialog with Žilvinas Kempinas." Žilvinas Kempinas Slow Motion. Basel: Museum Tinguely, 2013. 113. Print.
2. Tissot, Karine. "An Opening of Avenues on Other Things than Material Life." Žilvinas Kempinas Slow Motion. Basel: Museum Tinguely, 2013. 67. Print.
3. Hirsch, Faye. "Forces of Nature: Zilvinas Kempinas." Art in America 9 May 2014. Brant Publications. Web. 12 Nov. 2014. <<http://www.artinamericamagazine.com/news-features/previews/forces-of-nature-zilvinas-kempinas/>>.



Above: Scarecrow installation at Socrates Sculpture Park, April, 2014.

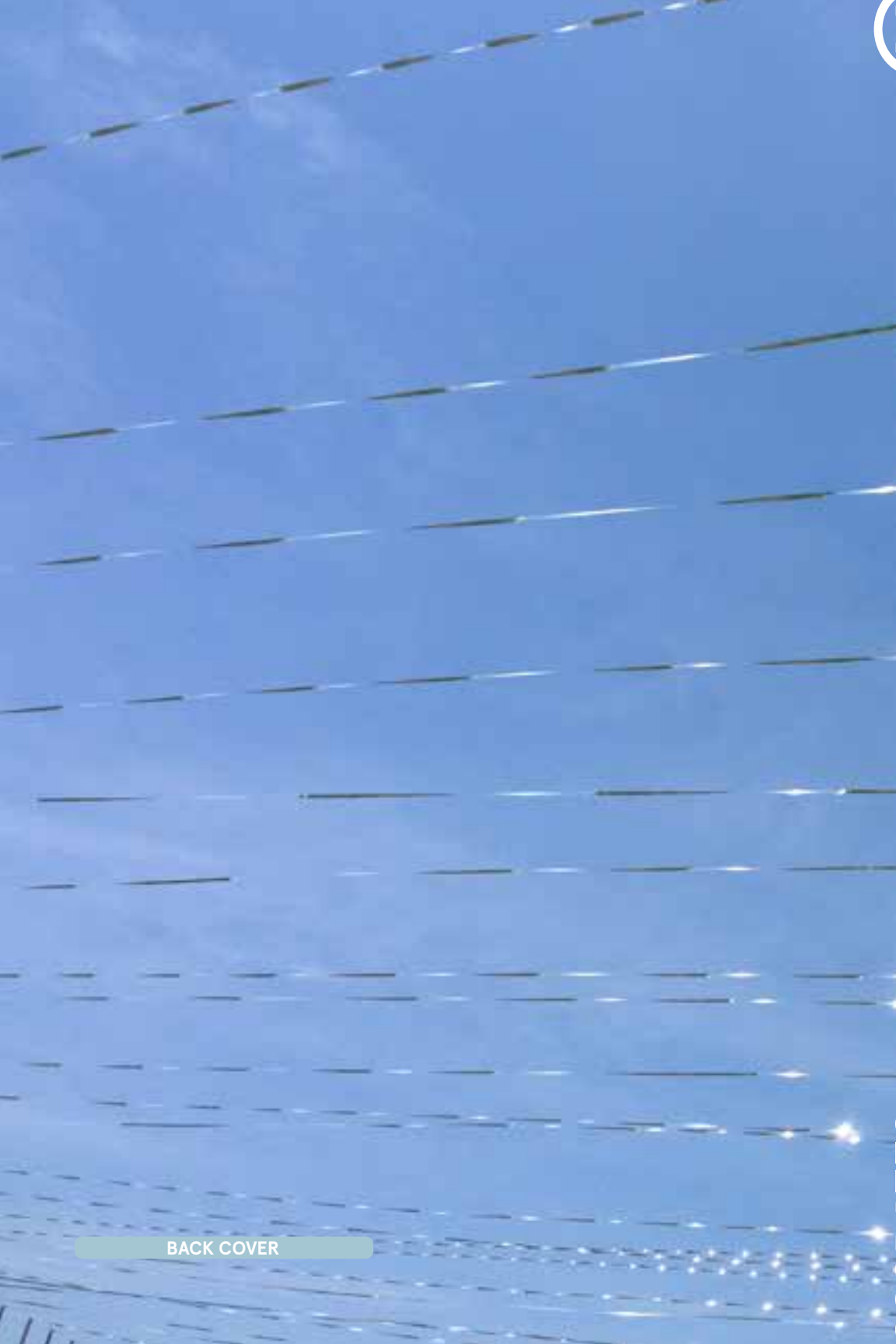












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