The Socrates Annual exhibition marks the culmination of the 2023 Socrates Annual Fellowship, which awarded six artists — selected through a competitive open-call application process — with funding, access to the Park’s outdoor studio, and the production support needed to realize ambitious public artworks. The central theme of this year’s exhibition revolves around transformation, echoing the Park’s evolution — from an abandoned landfill to a flourishing gathering space. These five projects reflect on diverse stages of growth, change, and renewal while also invoking a keen understanding of how visitors use this space, informed by the artists’ firsthand experience fabricating these works on-site over the summer.

Learn more:
socratessculpturepark.org/the-socrates-annual-2023

To hear from Kaitlin Garcia-Maestas, Curator & Director of Exhibitions, dial 646-217-4440, then press 6 followed by the # key.
Kate Rusek  
**Imagined Fungal Emergence**  
Reclaimed aluminum and aluminum fasteners

Using reclaimed aluminum blinds, Rusek creates an immersive tapestry inspired by clusters of fungi. Referencing both natural and manmade architectural structures, the installation features archways and openings that invite visitors to navigate through the suspended forms. Notice how each cluster draws strength from its neighboring component while also relying on the supportive embrace of the trees. Crafted predominantly from waste sourced in New York City, this work challenges preconceived notions of value, and imagines a future where each element holds regenerative potential.

To hear about *Imagined Fungal Emergence* by the artist, dial 646-217-4440, then press 1 followed by the # key.

Stefania Urist  
**Desire Lines**  
Phragmites, steel wire, and rebar

Formed in the shape of historic New York waterway maps, these fences are handwoven with phragmites, an invasive European reed grass now thriving in North American wetlands. While phragmites impose monocultures and suppress native flora, they also, paradoxically, serve as a carbon sink, absorbing emissions, cleansing waterways, and enhancing storm resilience. This work addresses the complex factors of human-defined borders and the migration of species. In an era of rapid global change, the artist prompts us to consider who has the authority to determine the habitats for certain species.

To hear about *Desire Lines* by the artist, dial 646-217-4440, then press 2 followed by the # key.

Maryam Turkey  
**Deconstructed**  
Metal, foam, stucco, pigment, and reclaimed wood

Drawing inspiration from her childhood in Baghdad, where mud structures bore the imprint of human touch, this immersive work echoes the architectural imperfections and textures that fascinated the artist as a child. Facilitating tactile interactions through its textured surfaces and intricate puzzle-like form, the artwork serves as a juxtaposition to the prevailing tide of mechanized construction and architectural rigidity. Eliciting a palpable sense of play, *Deconstructed* embodies a timeless narrative, celebrating the enduring connection between humanity and its architectural creations amidst an evolving world dominated by technology.

To hear about *Deconstructed* by the artist, dial 646-217-4440, then press 3 followed by the # key.

Ashley Harris and Ndivhuho Rasengani  
**Dwell within the Light**  
Glass, concrete, acrylic, steel, wood, and plants

*Dwell within the Light* traces the Park’s evolution from its origins as the ancestral land of the Lenape, Carnarsie, and Matinecock People, through its phase as a dumpsite, to its ultimate transformation into an arts space. The concrete bases display gradient hues and impressions of elements such as rope, native grasses, and leaves collected from the vibrant ecosystem of the Park. These sculptures, forged from a fusion of found materials, pivot and morph in response to the sites’ natural forces—wind, rain, and human interaction. Together, these works intertwine narratives of history and landscape through their unique material interconnections.

To hear about *Dwell within the Light* by the artist, dial 646-217-4440, then press 4 followed by the # key.

Bat-Ami Rivlin  
**Untitled (12 tubs)**  
Steel and reclaimed bathtubs  
Additional production support from Artis Contemporary

*Untitled (12 tubs)* is a sculptural gesture entwining the landscape with the small, intimate spaces of twelve suspended bathtubs. Facing inwards, the bathtubs create an interior space of chambers, allowing the viewer to simultaneously experience the extreme interior and exterior as the view of the Park invades the hollow piece. The bathtub, being a unit of measurement for the industrialized “average” human mass, creates a space that systematizes the human form. This duality of function, both intimate in its closeness to the body and alienating in its quantification of flesh, transforms into an architectural element as the object repeats over and over again. The bathtub-wheel carves into the air, placing frames for the body in impossible positions in space.

To hear about *Untitled (12 tubs)* by the artist, dial 646-217-4440, then press 5 followed by the # key.