

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
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MEDIA ALERT



Virginia Overton, *Untitled (mirrors for Randall's Island)*, 2012. Commissioned and produced by Frieze Projects New York 2012.

Whitney Commissions Virginia Overton to Create Site-Specific Installation *Virginia Overton: Sculpture Gardens* opens June 10, 2016

NEW YORK, May 3, 2016— For the second commissioned project on the Museum's fifth -floor outdoor gallery, the Whitney Museum of American Art has invited Virginia Overton to create a new site-specific installation. *Virginia Overton: Sculpture Gardens*, to be installed on the Whitney's largest outdoor space and in adjacent galleries, will explore the concepts of the sculpture garden as a cultivated setting for contemplating artworks and the garden sculpture as a vernacular ornament adorning lawns and gardens. Situated not in a verdant landscape but on a concrete-paved rooftop, Overton's sculptures themselves will take the form of aquatic gardens, forging dialogues between the High Line's plantings and the Hudson River's waters.

On the outdoor gallery, *Virginia Overton: Sculpture Gardens* will feature two towering, prefabricated windmills to harness the site's abundant natural power and pump air through crisscrossing pneumatic tubes to multiple water features planted with aquatic gardens. Throughout the course of the summer, Overton's installation will attract insect and avian visitors, varying with the weather to emphasize our tenuous and unpredictable hold on the natural world. In the adjacent galleries, Overton will choreograph a sequence of encounters that highlight and disrupt the connection between the Whitney's architecture and the outdoors. The Goergen Gallery will be wallpapered with a landscape, while a hovering sculpture will both accentuate and bar the artificial panorama. In the Kaufman Gallery, a group of abstract sculptures crafted from industrial and natural materials, some salvaged from the artist's family farm and past projects, will be on display. Open views will be provided between the Kaufman Gallery and the outdoor gallery, revealing publicly for the first time the transparency inherent in Renzo Piano's design of

these spaces.

Virginia Overton: Sculpture Gardens is organized by Scott Rothkopf, Deputy Director for Programs and Nancy and Steve Crown Family Chief Curator and assistant curator, Laura Phipps.

About Virginia Overton

Throughout her career Virginia Overton (b. 1971, Nashville, TN) has used the languages of physicality, displacement, and minimalism in her sculptures, videos, photography, and installations. Overton creates exhibitions in response to the natural and manmade environments in which she works, often overlaying these sites with diverse references ranging from the history of modern art to her personal background in rural Tennessee. She recently created thirteen site-reactive sculptures and a video for the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield, CT, which will be on view through February 2017. Overton has also had recent solo shows at Storm King Art Center, New Windsor, NY; Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, FL; Kunsthalle Bern, Bern, Switzerland; and The Power Station, Dallas, TX.

Exhibition Support

Generous support for *Virginia Overton: Sculpture Gardens* is provided by Bob and Pam Goergen.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

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| <i>June Leaf: Thought is Infinite</i> | Through July 17 2016 |
| <i>Human Interest: Portraits from the Whitney's Collection</i> | Through Feb 12, 2017 |
| <i>Mirror Cells</i> | May 13–Aug 21, 2016 |
| <i>Stuart Davis: In Full Swing</i> | June 10–Sept 25, 2016 |
| <i>Virginia Overton: Sculpture Gardens</i> | June 10–Sept 25, 2016 |
| <i>Danny Lyon: Message to the Future</i> | June 17–Sept 25, 2016 |
| <i>Sophia Al-Maria: Black Friday</i> | July 26–Oct 31, 2016 |
| <i>Carmen Herrera</i> | Sept 16, 2016–Jan 2, 2017 |
| <i>Dreamlands: Immersive Cinema and Art, 1905-2016</i> | Oct 28, 2016–Feb 5, 2017 |
| <i>Whitney Biennial</i> | Spring 2017 |
| <i>David Wojnarowicz: History Keeps Me Awake at Night</i> | Spring 2018 |

The Whitney Museum is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Museum hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday from 10:30 am to 6 pm, Friday and Saturday from 10:30 am to 10 pm, closed Tuesday (in July and August the Museum will open on Tuesdays from 10:30 am to 6 pm). Adult tickets: \$22; full-time students and visitors 65 & over: \$18; visitors 18 and under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 7–10 pm. As of June 10, same-day adult admission tickets will be \$25; advance tickets purchased via whitney.org will remain \$22 for adults and be discounted to \$17 for full-time students and visitors 65 & over (same-

day tickets are not available on whitney.org). For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.

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