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FOLLIES COME TO LAUMEIER

At a Glance

WHO: A solo exhibition of artwork by internationally acclaimed artist Mark Dion.

WHAT: *Mark Dion: Follies*, an exhibition of five sculptures and one dozen works on paper that present the artist's fantastical, architectural worlds. Related public programs help visitors explore the artwork's themes.

WHEN: The exhibition will be on view from February 15–May 24, 2020. Laumeier Sculpture Park is free and open daily from 8:00 a.m. until 30 minutes past sunset.

WHERE: Laumeier Sculpture Park, 12580 Rott Road, St. Louis, MO 63127. The majority of the exhibition will be presented in the Whitaker Gallery in the Aronson Fine Arts Center, with two sculptures also presented in Laumeier's Outdoor Galleries.

WHY: Mark Dion is an accomplished, celebrated and world-renown artist whose work is embraced by the critics and the general public alike. His artwork explores the intersections between nature, science, architecture, and scholarship in ways that are intelligent, funny, dark, and thought provoking. This exhibition will introduce St. Louis audiences to a substantial amount of his work across multiple media (sculpture, installation, photographs, prints and drawings).

Laumeier Sculpture Park presents ***Mark Dion: Follies*, February 15–May 24, 2020**

Laumeier Sculpture Park is proud to present *Mark Dion: Follies*. Mark Dion has fashioned a world-wide reputation as an innovative sculptor and installation artist whose points of departure include the intersections of the historical and the contemporary, as well as the man-made and natural worlds. *Mark Dion: Follies* is the most comprehensive look at the artist's architectural works from the 1990s to the present; sheds or shacks filled with the tools of the trade for scientists, botanists and naturalists who live in, study and collect natural specimens. Laumeier

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will present selections from the original exhibition. Visitors will experience sculptural installations such as *Hunting Blind (The Glutton)* and *Hunting Blind (The Dandy Rococo)*, Dion's elaborate takes on the outdoor protective structures used by hunters, as well as *The Memory Box*, a shed filled with dozens of keepsake objects stored in individual containers that suggest the ways that inanimate objects are associated with treasured memories. Approximately one dozen drawings, prints and photographs will round out the presentation.

Mark Dion: Follies debuted at Storm King Art Center in New York State from May 4 to November 11, 2019, and was curated by Storm King staff Nora R. Lawrence, Senior Curator; David Collens, Director and Chief Curator; and Sarah Diver, Curatorial Assistant. Its presentation at Storm King attracted many enthusiastic visitors and garnered coverage in the international press, including *Artnet News*, *The Art Newspaper*, *Forbes*, *The New York Times*, and the *New Yorker*.

Selections from the Storm King presentation are coming to Laumeier where its installation is being overseen by Lauren Ross, Executive Director and Dana Turkovic, Curator. Ross states: "Laumeier is thrilled to bring Mark Dion's artwork to the St. Louis region. His work is at once smart, funny, accessible, thought provoking, and perfectly aligned with our mission of engaging the community through art and nature." Turkovic adds, "I can't wait to see Dion's work here at Laumeier, the interaction between art and science, zoology and landscape, mixed with pre-fab architecture and thrift-store trinkets will nurture the curiosity of our visitors."

Mark Dion: Follies is accompanied by a boxed set produced by Storm King, containing a publication in the "field guide" style that is typical of Dion's books, along with a glass vial containing a natural sample collected at Storm King, each of which is unique. Produced in an edition of 500, each box is individually numbered. The field guide publication includes texts on Dion's work by multiple authors as well as reprinted interviews with the artist. The boxed set will be available for purchase in Laumeier's Gracie's Shop for \$36 for members, and \$40 for non-members.

About the artist

Mark Dion (b. 1961, New Bedford, MA) has exhibited his work internationally for decades. His many solo exhibitions *Theatre of the Natural World* at the Whitechapel Gallery, London (2018), *Misadventures of a 21st Century Naturalist* at the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston (2017), *Mark Dion: The Academy of Things* at The Academy of Fine Arts Design in Dresden, Germany (2014), *The Macabre Treasury* at Museum Het Domein in Sittard, The Netherlands (2013), *Oceanomania: Souvenirs of Mysterious Seas* at Musée Océanographique de Monaco and Nouveau Musée National de Monaco/Villa Paloma in Monaco (2011), *The Marvelous Museum: A Mark Dion Project* at Oakland Museum of California (2010-11), *Systema Metropolis* at Natural History Museum, London (2007), *The South Florida Wildlife Rescue Unit* at Miami Art Museum (2006), *Rescue Archaeology*, a project for the Museum of Modern Art (2004), and his renowned *Tate Thames Dig* at the Tate Gallery in London (1999). He has produced large scale



permanent commissions for Documenta 13 in Kassel, Germany; the Montevideo Biennale in Uruguay; The Rose Art Museum; Johns Hopkins University; and the Port of Los Angeles. He lives in Copake, New York with his wife and frequent collaborator Dana Sherwood.

Public Programs

Multiple public programs—many free of charge—will be presented in conjunction with this exhibition, including:

Friday, February 14 / Noon

ARTIST LECTURE at Webster University's Winifred Moore Auditorium

Mark Dion will give a lecture on his artistic practice with a focus on the works in the exhibition.

Saturday, February 15 / 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION: *Mark Dion: Follies* with artist remarks at 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 15 / 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

FAMILY MEMORY BOXES

Spend the morning building unique memory boxes—learn how to sort, gather and display special items so that cherished memories can be rediscovered every time the box is opened by you and your family!

Saturday, March 14 / 10 a.m.-11:30

HUNTERS AND HUNTING

Learn about the pastime of wildlife hunting, with perspectives on real-life experiences from hunters interested in sport and food, with insights on habitat conservation, the history of hunting equipment and recipes for cooking wild game. Join Don Gerling, Operations Manager of St. Louis County Parks and Jeff Esely, Private Land Conservationist with Missouri Department of Conservation in this exciting discussion.

Saturday, April 18 / 7:30–9:30 p.m.

NIGHT VISIONS

Join us for an evening of wild nighttime visions! Enjoy a campfire and outdoor screening of footage capturing Laumeier's wildlife. Then, test your night vision as we hit the trails for a hiking experience to see what our nocturnal friends are up to.

Visit www.laumeier.org for the most up to date information on programs.

About Laumeier Sculpture Park

Founded in 1976, Laumeier Sculpture Park is one of the first and largest sculpture parks in the country. Laumeier presents approximately 65 works of large-scale outdoor sculpture throughout its 105 acre campus, and serves 300,000 visitors of all ages each year, with a world-



class art collection, indoor and outdoor temporary exhibitions, education programs, and public events. Laumeier is an internationally recognized museum, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The 501(c)3 nonprofit organization operates in partnership with St. Louis County Parks.

Laumeier Sculpture Park's ongoing operations and programs are generously supported by St. Louis County Parks; Regional Arts Commission; Missouri Arts Council; Arts and Education Council; Emerson; UMSL, among other corporations, foundations, individual donors and members.

2020 Exhibitions at Laumeier are supported by Alison and John Ferring, Ken and Nancy Kranzberg.

For more about Laumeier Sculpture Park, please visit www.laumeier.org

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MARK DION

The Memory Box, 2015

Wood, steel, shelving, various objects

9 ft. 6 in. x 9 ft. 5 in. x 10 ft. 5 in.

Courtesy the artist and Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York / Los Angeles



MARK DION

Hunting Blind (The Dandy Rococo), 2008

(exterior and interior views)

Mixed media; sofa, two chairs, table, chandelier, small horns and mounted trophies, silver tray of small glasses and crystal decanter, leather ammunition box, binoculars, hunting horn, hunting cap, ceramic animals

9 ft. 2 1/4 in. x 7 ft. 6 9/16 in. x 11 ft. 5 13/16 in.

Courtesy the artist and Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York / Los Angeles



MARK DION

Grotto of the Sleeping Bear, 1997

Taxidermic specimen, stones, tree trunks, various objects

42 15/16 in. x 48 7/16 in. x 7 ft. 3 13/16 in.

Courtesy the artist and Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York / Los Angeles