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Laumeier Sculpture Park Loans Collection Artworks to Lambert-St. Louis International Airport

(ST. LOUIS, MO)—Laumeier Sculpture Park announced the loan of two cast bronze sculptures from its Collection to [Lambert-St. Louis International Airport](#). Charles Arnoldi's *Eclipse*, 1990, and Isaac Witkin's *Hawthorne Tree*, 1987, will be on loan to the airport for five years as part of the Lambert Art & Culture Program. The artworks join Zhu Wei's *China China*, 2003, on loan to Lambert from the Gateway Foundation, in the ticketing lobby of Terminal 1 in new seating areas featuring wide window views of Lambert's airfield. The sculptures were installed at Lambert on Friday, May 1, 2015.

"We are very pleased to be working with Lambert-St. Louis International Airport on a long-term loan program that puts art into the spaces at Lambert—as the original designers intended—and brings fresh perspective to Laumeier's rich legacy Collection," said Marilu Knode, Executive Director at Laumeier Sculpture Park. "Both partners are dedicated to creating a vibrant community enlivened by great architecture and art—past and present—that shows the cultural riches of the St. Louis community."

The Lambert Art & Culture Program is led by a seven-member Airport Art Advisory Committee. Current members are Shelley Hagen, Director and Curator of the Wells Fargo Corporate Art Collection, Wells Fargo Advisors; Laura Helling, Director of Development, Wings of Hope; Marilu Knode, Executive Director & Chief Curator, Laumeier Sculpture Park; Leslie Markle, Curator for Public Art, Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum; Kiku Obata, Founding Principal, Kiku Obata & Co.; Roseann Weiss, Director of Community & Public Arts, Regional Arts Commission; and Freida L. Wheaton, Founder, Alliance of Black Art Galleries.

Charles Arnoldi, *Eclipse*, 1990

Laumeier Sculpture Park Collection, gift of the John McEnroe Gallery

Eclipse is a quirky, double-oval-shaped bronze sculpture with "Giacometti-esque" elongation. Each hollowed-out, walnut shape employs the hand of the artist, as frantic finger trails are embedded into the surface. Quasi-figurative in form and scale, *Eclipse* refers in both concept and composition to Arnoldi's painting practice, literally documenting the trace of his hand. This work illustrates Arnoldi's sensitivity to surface, gestural movement, organic pattern, the play between positive and negative space and the ongoing investigation and invention of his own vocabulary of forms.

Charles Arnoldi was born in 1946 in Dayton, Ohio. He studied at the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles in 1968. During his studies, he received the Los Angeles County Museum of Art talent award. Arnoldi began exhibiting his work in 1970 in the United States and soon after began exhibiting his work internationally. He has had one-person and group exhibitions at institutions including the Seattle Museum of Art, the Portland Art Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Busan Metropolitan Art Museum, Korea. Arnoldi's works are in collections at the Art Institute of Chicago; the Denver Art Museum; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington; and the Guggenheim Bilbao, Spain.

Isaac Witkin, *Hawthorne Tree*, 1987

Laumeier Sculpture Park Collection, gift of Adam and Judy Aronson

Abstraction and figuration blend together in *Hawthorne Tree*. Reminiscent of a gnarled and thorny tree found in Witkin's native South Africa, this work is one of six variations in a series, each representing different aspects of magical transformation. The theme is derived from a spell that was cast upon Merlin the Magician by a wood nymph, to whom he teaches his magic. The nymph goes forth in the guise of Merlin while he rests under the shade of a Hawthorne tree. By using bronze in an expressive way to mimic nature's way of form-making, Witkin created a sculpture that is simultaneously grounded and atmospheric, enchanted and sacred.

Isaac Witkin was born in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1936. At the age of 21, the sculptor moved to London where he attended St. Martin's School of Art. In 1965, Witkin immigrated to the United States and became an artist-in-residence at Bennington College from 1965–79. Past exhibitions include: Locks Gallery, Philadelphia; Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, New York; Grounds For Sculpture, Hamilton, New Jersey; and a solo exhibition at the Walker Hill Art Center, Seoul. Additionally, Witkin is featured in numerous public collections including: Centre for Modern Art, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon; Fine Arts Museum, University of Sydney, Australia; Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh; Denver Art Museum; Hayward Gallery, London; Storm King Art Center, Mountainville, New York; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, Massachusetts; Tate Gallery, London; and The Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Witkin passed away in 2006.

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About Lambert-St. Louis International Airport

Lambert-St. Louis International Airport is the 31st busiest airport in the U.S. as ranked by Airports Council International-North America. Lambert served more than 12.5 million passengers in 2013. Lambert-St. Louis International Airport is an Enterprise Fund Department of the City of St. Louis. It is wholly supported by airport user charges. No general fund revenues are used for the operation, administration, promotion or maintenance of airport facilities.

About Laumeier Sculpture Park

Laumeier Sculpture Park is a living laboratory where artists and audiences explore the relationship between contemporary art and the natural environment. Founded in 1976, Laumeier is one of the first and largest dedicated sculpture parks in the country, making it an institution of international significance as well as a unique complement to the cultural landscape of the St. Louis region. Laumeier is a nonprofit, accredited art museum that operates in partnership with St. Louis County Parks. Projects and programs are supported by the Mark Twain Laumeier Endowment Fund, the Regional Arts Commission, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri Arts Council and the Arts and Education Council of St. Louis. Laumeier presents 60 works of large-scale outdoor sculpture in a 105-acre park available free to the public year-round, and serves 300,000 patrons annually through temporary exhibitions, education programs, public events and sculpture conservation.