



**MADISON SQUARE  
PARK CONSERVANCY**

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**For Immediate Release**



**MADISON SQUARE PARK CONSERVANCY'S  
MAD. SQ. ART  
PRESENTS  
SANDRA GIBSON AND LUIS RECODER:  
*TOPSY-TURVY: A CAMERA OBSCURA INSTALLATION*  
March 1 – April 5, 2013**

***Site-specific work to offer visitors new view of New York City landscape  
via one of the world's oldest moving image devices***

**New York**—Madison Square Park Conservancy's **Mad. Sq. Art** announces a new installation to inaugurate the spring 2013 season: ***Topsy-Turvy: A Camera Obscura Installation*** (2013) by New York-based artists **Sandra Gibson and Luis Recoder**. On view daily from March 1 – April 5, 2013, 10am-5pm, *Topsy-Turvy* will reimagine one of the world's oldest moving image devices into a life-sized 10-foot by 10-foot structure. Park visitors will be able to enter the interactive, large-scale installation, which will utilize the physical properties of light to capture images of the surrounding Flatiron District in real time. This centuries-old artistic medium will alter how visitors experience the park and engage with the various elements of New York City's urban landscape through a new and exciting lens.

For over a decade, Sandra Gibson and Luis Recoder have collaborated on numerous performances and installations uniting the various rich traditions of experimental film. They are particularly interested in the medium's structuralist and materialist aspects, and the multi-modal sensibility of expanded cinema that emerged in the 1960s in which the moving image was woven into the labile realms of performance, sound, and audience interaction. Their larger body of work explores this interstice between avant-garde film practice and the incorporation of moving images and time-based media into a distinctive art practice all their own. For their Mad. Sq. Art commission, Gibson and Recoder turn to their shared interest in cinema, drawing upon and manipulating basic elements of projected light and shadow in order to articulate space and time, as well as explore their most fundamental optical and formal qualities. In the words of Ed Halter, *Artforum* critic and founder of Brooklyn-based film and electronic art venue Light Industry, "in their collaborative film performances, Sandra Gibson and Luis Recoder employ simple mechanical means to hypnotically elaborate ends."

**President of the Madison Square Park Conservancy, Debbie Landau comments:** "Since 2004, the Mad. Sq. Art program has presented groundbreaking art practices that extend beyond the confinements of a traditional gallery space. This March, Mad. Sq. Art is thrilled to feature emerging contemporary artists who have quickly become recognized as two of the most innovative practitioners of new media, and with this exhibition, in calling on a well-known, but often unthought of practice for art in public spaces."

**Artists Sandra Gibson and Luis Recoder state:** "*Topsy-Turvy* is our homage to one of the earliest moving image technologies in the pre-history of cinema. The projected image inside our circular Camera Obscura delivers an inverted panoramic abstraction of Madison Square Park and the surrounding scenery around the Flatiron District."

**Martin Friedman Curator, Adam D. Glick remarks:** "Gibson and Recoder's *Topsy-Turvy* will bring this centuries-old practice to historic Madison Square Park, inverting the Flatiron Building and offering an unexpected perspective on one of Manhattan's most beloved public spaces and its surroundings. This exhibition will allow for a unique and individualized experience for each person who comes to Madison Square Park, creating the feeling that life is a film and in real time."

#### **About the Artists:**

**Sandra Gibson** (b. 1968) and **Luis Recoder's** (b. 1971) collaborative performances and installations have been exhibited internationally at numerous museums, galleries, and film festivals such as the *2004 Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum of American Art (NY); *Performa 09*, Light Industry (NY), *Radical Light*, Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive (CA); Sundance Film Festival (UT), *Film.Text.Performance.Film*, Ballroom Marfa (TX), *Film Projection Performance*, Redcat (Los Angeles, CA), *Conversations At The Edge*, Gene Siskel Film Center (IL); Toronto International Film Festival, Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto); *Expanded Cinema: Film als Spektakel, Ereignis und Performance*, Hartware MedienKunstVerein (Dortmund), *Expanded Cinema: Activating the Space of Reception*, Tate Modern (London), BFI 50th London Film Festival, Institute of Contemporary Arts (London); *Kill Your Timid Notion*, Dundee Contemporary Arts (Dundee, Scotland); 36th International Film Festival Rotterdam (The Netherlands); *Improvisacoes Colaboracoes*, Serralves Foundation (Porto); Image Forum Festival at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art (Kanazawa); and The Kitchen (NY).

Sandra Gibson and Luis Recoder live and work in New York City, and are represented by Bryce Wolkowitz Gallery, New York.

The exhibition of ***Topsy-Turvy: A Camera Obscura Installation*** in Madison Square Park will precede the May opening of New York-based artist **Orly Genger's *Red, Yellow and Blue (2013)***, which will transform the Park's lush lawns with more than 1.4 million feet of intricately hand-knotted, painted and sculpted rope from May 2 through September 8, 2013.

## About Mad. Sq. Art and Madison Square Park Conservancy:

Mad. Sq. Art is the free, contemporary art program of the Madison Square Park Conservancy.

Since 2004, Mad. Sq. Art has commissioned and presented more than twenty premier installations in Madison Square Park by acclaimed artists ranging in practice and media. Mad. Sq. Art has exhibited works by artists including **Bill Beirne, Jim Campbell, Richard Deacon, Mark di Suvero, Bill Fontana, Ernie Gehr, Antony Gormley, Jene Highstein, Tadashi Kawamata, Mel Kendrick, Sol LeWitt, Olia Lialina & Dragan Espenschied, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Charles Long, Jacco Olivier, Roxy Paine, Jaume Plensa, Shannon Plumb, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Alison Saar, Jessica Stockholder, Leo Villareal, and William Wegman**, among others.

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Join the conversation on Twitter and Instagram via the hashtag **#MadSqArt**

For more information on the Madison Square Park Conservancy and its programs, please visit <http://madisonsquarepark.org>.

**Image:** Rendering of Sandra Gibson and Luis Recoder's *Topsy-Turvy: A Camera Obscura Installation* (2013) at Madison Square Park. Courtesy of Madison Square Park Conservancy.

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