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**MADISON SQUARE PARK CONSERVANCY'S MAD. SQ. ART ANNOUNCES FALL AND
WINTER EXHIBITIONS FEATURING COMMISSIONED WORKS BY TONY CRAGG AND
PAULA HAYES**

TONY CRAGG

WALKS OF LIFE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2014 – FEBRUARY 8, 2015

PAULA HAYES

GAZING GLOBES

FEBRUARY 19, 2015 – APRIL 19, 2015

NEW YORK, July 24, 2014—**Mad. Sq. Art**, the free, contemporary art program of the **Madison Square Park Conservancy**, announces its Fall and Winter exhibitions featuring commissioned artworks made by internationally renowned sculptor **Tony Cragg** and New York-based visual artist and landscape designer **Paula Hayes**.

Tony Cragg's **Walks of Life** consists of three monumental bronze sculptures on three lawns in the Park. Cragg's exhibition will be on view from September 18, 2014 through February 8, 2015.

Paula Hayes's first outdoor sculpture exhibition in New York City will be on view throughout the Park from February 19 to April 19, 2015. **Gazing Globes** features eighteen crystal balls that hold the detritus of contemporary culture, including used batteries, computer parts, and other remnants of technology sprinkled with fairy dust made of pulverized CDs.

Brooke Kamin Rapaport, Martin Friedman Senior Curator, Madison Square Park Conservancy, said, “With the launch of our fall and winter exhibitions by Tony Cragg and Paula Hayes, Mad. Sq. Art is confirming this period of stylistic polyphony in contemporary outdoor sculpture. Cragg creates monumental work in bronze—a medium with a storied history—with a fluidity that pushes the very properties of that material. Hayes, by contrast, uses the residue of technology for the contents of her gazing globes.”

Tony Cragg’s work supplants any longstanding art historical division between abstraction and figuration: his sculptural innovation is to fuse both styles in one work and to make bronze into a malleable material. Cragg’s sculpture is characterized by repeated facial profiles and torqueing imagery that reshapes the experienced world. These forms intermingle to create vital objects where contours shift and morph, provoking the viewer to differentiate between a work of humanism and a work of dynamism.

In an interview, the artist said: “I think that sculpture is a kind of sensitizing activity and that it has a role in being a catalyst that may lead to more sensitive thinking. It’s a materialist’s tool, which I would hope would also lead to a more open-minded approach to the world around us.”

Installed on the west gravel section of the Park, Cragg’s *Caldera* is a strapping, tumultuous sculpture that rests on three points. Viewers will have the opportunity to walk beneath the work to experience its massive presence. At eighteen feet high, *Mixed Feelings* will command a northern lawn. Three times human height, the object is simultaneously immense and elegant. *Points of View* is a tripartite work of sinuous forms which interact with one another and with the viewer on the Park’s Oval Lawn. Facial profiles zig and zag across each column’s surface. All three sculptures in this exhibition were cast specifically for Madison Square Park.

The winter months are the perfect time to view Paula Hayes’s *Gazing Globes* exhibition, which is made up of eighteen transparent spheres that hold the detritus of contemporary culture. The globes, says Hayes, will give the park “an arctic feeling, a winter wonderland.” Formed into beautiful objects, Hayes’ crystal balls positioned on elegant fiberglass pedestals summon the present and predict the future. Each see-through globe lit from within will house used batteries, tossed-out computer parts, castoff electronic transistor parts, vacuum tubes, shredded rubber tires and recycled plastic flotsam. To these mixed remnants of technology and culture the artist adds crystals and minerals. A shimmering fairy dust made from pulverized CDs will coat the bottom and sides of each sculpture’s interior. Hayes, who typically works with varieties of plant materials, is determined that everyday castoffs are indicative of a society’s behavior and value system and symptomatic of the current landscape.

Hayes said, “I use vintage parts because technology moves at such a fast pace. These play a role in the current landscape and how information is transmitted from one part of the globe to the next. I am making an illuminated landscape evocative of the designed landscape of Madison Square Park. Both are born of human imagination and technology.”

Hayes’s exhibition will be installed on the west gravel of Madison Square Park. The works, of varying height, will form a forest of objects for viewers to walk around and through. The pedestal heights will range from 24 to 47 inches and the globes are 16, 18 and 24 inches diameter.

Gazing globes are a decorative form first used in outdoor gardens in the Middle Ages. These orbs were made of hand-blown glass, and were considered to hold magical power and to foster good luck

or ward off evil. Hayes conjures the mystical character of the historic object but makes the form fully contemporary as she creates work with present-day scrutiny and a nod to clairvoyance.

About the Artists:

Tony Cragg (b. 1949 in Liverpool; lives and works in Wuppertal, Germany) has shown internationally since the late 1970s. Recent solo exhibitions have been organized by the Lehmbrock Museum, Duisburg, Germany; The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg; Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas; Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh; and the Musée du Louvre, Paris. Cragg's work has appeared in two Documenta exhibitions and in four iterations of the Venice Biennale. His prior outdoor work includes commissions by the Cass Sculpture Foundation, London and a permanent installation of monumental works at the Waldfrieden Sculpture Park, Wuppertal, Germany. Cragg was awarded the Turner Prize by Tate, London in 1988. He is a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres, a Commander of the Order of the British Empire, and a recipient of the 1st Class Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. He has been honored with the Cologne Fine Art Award, Praemium Imperiale Award, and Piepenbrock Award. Cragg is the former Director of the Düsseldorf Art Academy, where he has taught since 1988. Cragg is represented by Marian Goodman Gallery, New York/Paris.

Paula Hayes (born 1958 in Concord, Massachusetts) is an American visual artist and landscape designer who works with sculpture, drawing, installation art, botany, and landscape design. Hayes has lived and worked in New York City for over two decades and is known for her terrariums and other living artworks, as well as her large-scale public and private landscapes. A major theme in Hayes' work is the connection of people to the natural environment, and much of her work is concerned with the care that is required to grow and maintain large- and small-scale ecosystems. Hayes' work has been acquired for gardens, museums and galleries in the United States and internationally. Her work has been on view at The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Museum of Arts and Design, New York; Lever House, New York; and The Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH; Omi International Arts Center, Ghent, New York; and Wave Hill, New York. Hayes is represented by Salon 94, New York.

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 thirty 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, Rachel Feinstein, Bill Fontana, Ernie Gehr, Orly Genger, Sandra Gibson & Luis Recoder, Antony Gormley, Jene Highstein, Tadashi Kawamata, Mel Kendrick, Sol LeWitt, Olia Lialina & Dragan Espenschied, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Charles Long, Iván Navarro, Jacco Olivier, Roxy Paine, Rachel Feinstein, Giuseppe Penone, Jaume Plensa, Shannon Plumb, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Alison Saar, Jessica Stockholder, Leo Villareal, and William Wegman.**

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Tony Cragg's *Walks of Life* sponsors:



Paula Hayes's *Gazing Globes* sponsors:



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Images:

Tony Cragg, *Points of View*, Sculpture Park Waldfrieden, Wuppertal, Germany. © Tony Cragg. Photo by Charles Duprat. (left)

Paula Hayes, Rendering for *Gazing Globes* for Madison Square Park, 2014. Courtesy Paula Hayes and Salon 94. (right)