

MADISON SQUARE PARK CONSERVANCY

ARTIST CRISTINA IGLESIAS UNEARTH'S FORGOTTEN LANDSCAPES IN MAJOR SITE-SPECIFIC INSTALLATION AT MADISON SQUARE PARK

***Landscape and Memory* Evokes Park's Buried Topography
With Large-Scale Bronze Sculptures Set into Lawn, Flowing with Water**



(L) Cristina Iglesias. Courtesy the artist and Marian Goodman Gallery, New York/Paris, © Cristina Iglesias. Photo: José Luis López de Zubiría; (R) Cristina Iglesias, *Landscape and Memory* at Madison Square Park, 2022. Courtesy the artist and Madison Square Park Conservancy. Photo: Rashmi Gill

New York, NY | Updated June 1, 2022 — Spanish artist Cristina Iglesias invites the public to consider the forgotten terrains and geographic history of New York City in a new public art installation opening today at Madison Square Park, marking her first major temporary public art project in the United States. *Landscape and Memory* places five bronze sculptural pools, flowing with water, into the park's Oval Lawn, harkening back to when the Cedar Creek coursed across the land where the park stands today. Building on Iglesias' practice of unearthing the forgotten and excavating natural history, *Landscape and Memory* resurfaces in the imaginations of contemporary viewers the now-invisible force of this ancient waterway.

On view from June 1 through December 4, 2022, *Landscape and Memory* is complemented by a slate of interdisciplinary public programs, free and open to the public. Presented within and responding to the work, these include a summer music series curated with Carnegie Hall as well as performance programming organized in conjunction with The Kitchen. Cristina Iglesias is also the keynote speaker for the Conservancy's annual public art symposium, held on Friday, June 3, 2022. This year's program investigates the role of public art in shedding new light on buried histories, both metaphorically and physically.

"Cristina Iglesias is renowned for sculpture and installation that engage closely with the spatial, cultural, and historical qualities of the spaces where they're sited. With *Landscape and Memory*, Iglesias brings a new level of exploration to our commissioning program, creating sculptural cracks in the lawns that reveal an unseen element of the park's natural history," said Brooke Kamin Rapaport, Deputy Director and Martin Friedman Chief Curator of Madison Square Park Conservancy. "Visitors who encounter the work will do so almost as

citizen archaeologists witnessing a living artifact from a centuries-old New York City, untouched by the present-day urban landscape.”

For *Landscape and Memory*, Iglesias digs deep into the park’s lawns to install five subterranean bronze sculptures carved with intricately patterned bas-reliefs. A subtle stream of water continuously trails across the sculptures’ hollowed surfaces, evoking the constancy of water slowly eroding rocky surfaces across millennia. The installation conjures the existence of unseen ancient streams that continue to run beneath modern cities, connecting the urban present with its primordial past, and connecting us to abstract ideas of what lies beneath us.

Nodding to historian Simon Schama’s major 1995 volume of the same name, which surveyed the history of landscape across time and terrain, *Landscape and Memory* is informed by Iglesias’ research into the history of the site. For the project, Iglesias located and studied historic maps that document the water flow through Madison Square Park, where the Cedar Creek once coursed. With nineteenth-century industrialization, streams like the Cedar were buried underground to create additional land for building sites, underground drains, or sewers. Through *Landscape and Memory*, Iglesias renders this history visible again, inviting viewers to contemplate centuries of transformation of urban sites that were once natural.

“Madison Square Park has a rich history, witnessing and participating in several hundred years of New York City’s growth and evolution,” said Madison Square Park Conservancy Executive Director Keats Myer. “Iglesias’ commission digs deep into this history, evoking an era that predates even our centuries-old park, to reconnect today’s visitors with the natural wonder of the original site.”

Landscape and Memory is organized by Brooke Kamin Rapaport, Deputy Director and Martin Friedman Chief Curator; Tom Reidy, Deputy Director of Finance and Special Projects; and Truth Murray-Cole, Curatorial Manager. Keats Myer is the Conservancy’s Executive Director.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Cristina Iglesias shapes large-scale, site-specific sculpture and installations that probe the tension between past and present, ancient and contemporary. Resisting the asceticism of the Minimalist movement, Iglesias initially created grid-like structures in natural materials that were suspended to assemble pavilions and architectural spaces. Beginning in the 2000s, Iglesias began to incorporate water into her permanent outdoor projects and sculptures.

In addition to her commission by Madison Square Park Conservancy, Iglesias has been commissioned to create major site-responsive installations internationally, including *Humid Labyrinth Room (with Spontaneous Landscape)* at Royal Academy, London, which is on view from June 21 through August 21, 2022; *Hondalea* (2021), which transformed a lighthouse into a sculpture on Santa Clara Island in the Bay of Donostia, San Sebastián, Spain; and *Inner Landscape (the lithosphere, the roots, the water)* (2020) in front of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston’s new Kinder Building. Other commissions have included a major public art installation at Bloomberg headquarters, London (2017); Fundación Botín, Santander (2017); *Tres Aguas* at Toledo, Spain (2014); Mexican Foundation for Environmental Education, Baja, California (2010); Museo del Prado, Madrid (2007); and Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp (2006). Iglesias’ work has been the subject of solo presentations at museums internationally, including Centro Botín, Santander, Spain (2018); Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid (2013); Ludwig Museum, Cologne (2006); Whitechapel Art Gallery, London (2003); and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (1997). She has also presented solo exhibitions with Marian Goodman Gallery globally and Gagosian Gallery in London.

Iglesias represented Spain at the Venice Biennale (1986, 1993) and at the Biennale of Sydney (1990, 2012); at the Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (1995); at the Taipei Biennial (2003); at the SITE Santa Fe Biennial (2006); and at the Folkestone Triennial (2011).

Iglesias was born in San Sebastián, Northern Spain in November 1956. She studied Chemical Sciences in the University of the Basque Country (1976 – 1978), and ceramics and sculpture at the Chelsea College of Arts in London (1980 - 1982). She was granted a Fulbright scholarship to study at Pratt Institute (1988). She was appointed Professor of Sculpture at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Munich (1995).

Iglesias is represented by Marian Goodman Gallery. Her studio is in Madrid, Spain.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Landscape and Memory is complemented by a series of public programs that are inspired by the themes explored in the installation. All programs are free and take place on the park's Oval Lawn, unless otherwise noted.

Further details on individual events follows below and can be found on the Conservancy website [here](#).

Public Art Symposium: Unearthing Public Art Friday, June 3, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

SVA Theatre (333 West 23rd Street, New York City)

Unearthing Public Art investigates how public art explores the buried and manufactured histories of civic space. Inspired by *Landscape and Memory*, and marking the Conservancy's seventh annual public art symposium, the event considers why artists, curators, scholars, and cultural leaders are pushing into the public realm with influential work that asks viewers to look deeply at what is beneath the physical and metaphorical ground plane.

The event is anchored by a keynote conversation with artist Cristina Iglesias and Lynne Cooke, Senior Curator of Special Projects in Modern Art at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Other featured speakers include Metropolitan Museum of Art curator Ian Alteveer; artists Alice Aycock, Maren Hassinger, Alan Michelson, and Kennedy Yanko; poet Deborah Landau; arts and culture journalist and *New York Times* contributor Ted Loos; and architecture theorist Mark Wigley. The Conservancy's Brooke Kamin Rapaport introduces the program.

Lunchtime Tours of *Landscape and Memory* Tuesdays and Wednesdays in June and July, at 12:00 PM

After grabbing a bite to eat, join Madison Square Park Conservancy docents and interns to learn more about Cristina Iglesias's artistic practice and the inspiration and significance of *Landscape and Memory* during these free 15-minute lunchtime tours.

Art Talks

Wednesdays, June 15, 22, 29, and July 6, at 6:00 PM

Four artists whose work ranges in medium and meaning will speak on their work and connectedness to Iglesias' *Landscape and Memory*. These informal presentations will be held around the project with opportunities for parkgoers to enter dialogue with each artist following their presentation.

- June 15: Kevork Mourad

- June 22: Vanessa German
- June 29: Cynthia Daignault
- July 6: Adam Liam Rose

Music on the Green: Attacca Quartet
Wednesdays, July 13, 20, and 27, at 6:00 PM

Carnegie Hall curates a series of musical performances inspired by Cristina Iglesias' *Landscape and Memory*. Each performance, part of the free Carnegie Hall Citywide series and featuring the Grammy Award-winning Attacca Quartet, is presented on the park's Oval Lawn from within the installation.

Reflection Board
July 25 through August 1, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Parkgoers respond on-site in the park to a central prompt generated from the themes and ideas of the exhibition.

Performances with The Kitchen
Wednesdays, September 21, October 5, October 12, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Artist and choreographer Beau Bree Rhee will perform new work inspired by *Landscape and Memory*.

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Landscape and Memory is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Leadership support for the exhibition is generously provided by Marian Goodman Gallery, New York/Paris, and The Ruth Stanton Foundation. Major support for the exhibition is generously provided by Agnes Gund and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Substantial support is provided by Morris A. Hazan Family Foundation and The Malka Fund.

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Madison Square Park Conservancy is a public/private partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

ABOUT MADISON SQUARE PARK CONSERVANCY

Madison Square Park Conservancy cultivates and enlivens Madison Square Park, a dynamic seven-acre public park in New York City's Flatiron District and one of the city's most treasured greenspaces. Through its public art commissions, horticultural stewardship, and engaging programming, the nonprofit creates an urban oasis that welcomes a diverse community of over 60,000 visitors each day. Keats Myer is the Conservancy's Executive Director.

Since 2004, the Conservancy has become a leader in commissioning new works of public art, curating and presenting over 40 major site-specific installations and solo exhibitions through

its art programming. Led by Brooke Kamin Rapaport, Deputy Director and Martin Friedman Chief Curator, the program invites leading artists to push the boundaries of their practice and create risk-taking new works that experiment with materiality, scale, and theme in response to the park's unique environment. The ambition of the commissioning program expands each year alongside the diverse range of innovative artists including Diana Al-Hadid, Tony Cragg, Abigail DeVille, Leonardo Drew, Maya Lin, Iván Navarro, Martin Puryear, Arlene Shechet, Ursula von Rydingsvard, and Krzysztof Wodiczko.

In 2019, the Conservancy served as the commissioning institution for the U.S. Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, marking the first time that an organization whose visual art program focuses exclusively on public art has received this honor. With Rapaport serving as Commissioner, the Conservancy presented new work by Martin Puryear.

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