



For Immediate Release



Rendering courtesy of the High Line

HANNAH LEVY

Retainer

The artist's first public artwork

April 2020 – March 2021
On the High Line at 23rd St.

New York, NY (February 18, 2020) — High Line Art announces *Retainer*, a new High Line Commission by artist Hannah Levy. On view from April 2020 through March 2021, Levy's *Retainer* is a sculpture of an oversized orthodontic retainer made from carved marble and stainless steel that will be installed on the park at 23rd Street. Hannah Levy, *Retainer* is organized by Cecilia Alemani, Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art.

For the High Line, Levy makes an oversized orthodontic retainer from carved marble and stainless steel. The sculpture is the latest in her series of stone retainers—the artist hand-sculpted earlier iterations in alabaster; the version for the High Line is realized with the Fondazione Henraux at Monte Altissimo, a prestigious marble quarry in Italy that Michelangelo Buonarroti first used in 1517, and that was later used by Auguste Rodin and Henry Moore. The

HIGH LINE ART



piece points to the strangeness of orthodontics and straight teeth as a marker of class, in part because of orthodontics' exorbitant price. The organic form of the cast mouth contrasts with its smooth metal bars, which conjures the feeling of the rigid form inside one's mouth and invites external structures inside one's own body. Levy's giant retainer is almost as tall as the park benches nearby, and the retainer wire is the size of the High Line's exterior railings, which sets the piece in conversation with the architecture and design of the park and its surroundings.

Hannah Levy's largely anthropomorphic sculptures evoke the physicality of interacting with the built environment: lounging on chairs, leaning in doorways, or grasping a railing. With her work, she selects precise materials, forms, and colors to conjure these feelings. Levy reimagines modern furnishings and contemporary design tropes in fleshy cast silicone and nickel-plated steel, blurring boundaries between public exteriors and private interiors, and contrasts cold materials, such as steel and aluminum with organic forms. In one sculpture, an eight-foot, mustard-colored silicone asparagus droops between shining nickel-plated steel talons; in another, a jacket with impossibly long arms sags through elongated window bars; in a third, a cast gourd perches on a pair of bird legs. For Levy, paramount is the friction of physically interacting with our surroundings, which in turn sparks an awareness of our own materiality.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Hannah Levy (b. 1991, New York, New York) lives and works in New York, New York. Recent solo exhibitions include Casey Kaplan, New York (2020); Mother's Tankstation, Dublin, Ireland (2018); Fourteen30 Contemporary, Portland, Oregon (2017); and White Flag Projects Library, St. Louis, Missouri (2016). Notable group exhibitions include *Wege zur Welt – Hildebrand Collection*, G2 Kunsthalle, Leipzig (2019); *Campi Magnetici (Magnetic Fields)*, Giò Marconi, Milan, Italy (2019); *The Artist is Present*, Yuz Museum, Shanghai, China (2018); *I See You*, Savannah College of Art and Design Museum, Savannah, Georgia (2018); *Being There*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark (2017); *Past Skin*, MoMA PS1, New York, New York (2017); and *Things I Think I Want. Six Positions of Contemporary Art*, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Germany (2017).

ABOUT HIGH LINE ART

Founded in 2009, High Line Art commissions and produces a wide array of artwork, including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Led by Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art Cecilia Alemani, and presented by the High Line, the art program invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the unique architecture, history, and design of the park, and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape.

For further information about High Line Art, please visit thehighline.org/art.

ABOUT THE HIGH LINE

The High Line is both a nonprofit organization and a public park on the West Side of Manhattan. Through our work with communities on and off the High Line, we're devoted to reimagining public spaces to create connected, healthy neighborhoods and cities.

Built on a historic, elevated rail line, the High Line was always intended to be more than a park. You can walk through gardens, view art, experience a performance, enjoy food and beverage,



or connect with friends and neighbors—all while enjoying a unique perspective of New York City.

Nearly 100% of our annual budget comes through donations. The High Line is owned by the City of New York and we operate under a license agreement with NYC Parks.

SUPPORT

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@HighLineArtNYC #HannahLevy @hannahslevy

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