



For Immediate Release

HIGH LINE ART ANNOUNCES 2021 – 2022 COMMISSIONS THAT WILL BE DISPLAYED ALONG THE HIGH LINE BEGINNING IN APRIL 2021

Season’s public artworks include group exhibition *The Musical Brain* and sculptures by Hannah Levy and Ibrahim Mahama, as well as extended display of Jordan Casteel mural

New York, NY (December 18, 2020) — High Line Art, which manages public art programming and installations displayed along the High Line, today announces its 2021–2022 season of commissioned artworks. Each year, High Line Art collaborates with an international array of artists—both established and emerging—to produce artworks inspired by the unique setting of the park. Opening in April 2021, this season will include the group show *The Musical Brain* and sculptural solo commissions by Ibrahim Mahama and Hannah Levy. These installations were originally planned for 2020, but were delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Additionally, Jordan Casteel’s mural *The Baayfalls* has been extended and will continue to be displayed through summer 2021.

The 2021 group exhibition of sculptural and sound installations ***The Musical Brain*** explores how music can be used as a tool to inhabit and understand the world. *The Musical Brain* features works by Rebecca Belmore, Vivian Caccuri, Raúl de Nieves, Guillermo Galindo, David Horvitz, Mai-Thu Perret, Naama Tsabar, and Antonio Vega Macotella. Some of these artists are well-known for their musically-inclined artworks and others have only recently begun working with sound. They all approach music from different lenses—historical, political, performative, and playful—to create original installations and soundscapes. Located throughout the park, the exhibition, named after a short story by the Argentine writer César Aira, reflects on the power that music has to bring people together. *The Musical Brain* is organized by Cecilia Alemani, Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art and Melanie Kress, associate curator.

For the High Line, **Hannah Levy** (b. 1991, New York, New York) creates *Retainer*, an oversized orthodontic retainer made from carved marble and stainless steel that will be installed on the park at 23rd Street. 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 scale of Levy’s giant retainer is almost as tall as the park benches nearby, and the retainer wire is rendered the size of the exterior railings. This size sets the piece in conversation with the architecture and design of the park and the neighborhood. Levy’s largely anthropomorphic sculptures (often made with contrasting materials like silicone and aluminum) evoke the



physicality of interacting with the built environment, serving as reminders of our own materiality. Hannah Levy, *Retainer* is organized by Cecilia Alemani, Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art.

Ibrahim Mahama's (b. 1987, Tamale, Ghana) commission *57 Forms of Liberty* is an inverted industrial tank from a former manufacturing facility. The work is inspired by a rusted smokestack the artist saw at a locomotive workshop in Sekondi, Ghana that now has a tree growing from its mouth. The tree sprouting from the top of Mahama's sculpture mirrors the torch of the Statue of Liberty to the south, as well as the natural elements that continue to grow among the structures built and abandoned by humans. *57 Forms of Liberty* will be installed in the Northern Spur Preserve on the park near 16th Street, a location with visible reminders of High Line's own industrial past. For many of his sculptural installations, Mahama uses found materials to reflect on the movement of goods and people around the world. Ibrahim Mahama, *57 Forms of Liberty* is organized by Cecilia Alemani, Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art.

Installed in December 2019 and visible from the High Line at 22nd Street, **Jordan Casteel's** (b. 1989, Denver, Colorado) mural *The Baayfalls* recreates a painting on canvas of the same name originally made in 2017. *The Baayfalls* is a double portrait of Fallou—a woman Casteel befriended during her artist residency at The Studio Museum in Harlem—and Fallou's brother, Baaye Demba Sow. The pair are pictured outside the museum at Fallou's table, where she sold hats she designed. The title references Baye Fall, a sect of the Sufi brotherhood Mouride, of which Fallou's brother is a member. Casteel's work for the High Line extends the Harlem sidewalk to the park, connecting public spaces of different neighborhoods across the city. Through her portraiture, Casteel adds deeply nuanced expressions of human experience to the expanding collection of images we see every day. Jordan Casteel, *The Baayfalls*, is organized by Cecilia Alemani, Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art.

"The 2021 commissions demonstrate how today's talented artists reflect on the world around them, in turns playful, thoughtful, and hopeful," says Cecilia Alemani. "From engaging with music's transformative and connecting powers, to imagining the potential for reconsideration and regeneration in design and the built environment, to more deeply considering the people and spaces around us, these artists will activate the public space of the High Line in exciting ways."

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 Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art, 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 on 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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The Musical Brain is supported, in part, by awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and from The Scintilla Foundation.

Hannah Levy, *Retainer* is made possible, in part, by an in-kind donation from Fondazione Henraux.

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