



## **ABOUT MADISON SQUARE PARK CONSERVANCY AND MAD. SQ. ART**

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.

Since 2004, the Conservancy has become a leader in commissioning new works of public art, curating and presenting over 35 major site-specific installations and solo exhibitions through its Mad. Sq. Art programming. Curated and overseen by Brooke Kamin Rapaport, Deputy Director and Senior Curator, the program invites leading and mid-career 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. Embracing museological standards, all exhibitions are accompanied by scholarly publications and complemented by innovative cross-disciplinary programs, performances, artist talks, and symposia.

The ambition and scale of the commissioning program expands each year alongside the diverse range of innovative artists selected, who have included Diana Al-Hadid, Tony Cragg, Iván Navarro, Josiah McElheny, Jaume Plensa, Martin Puryear, and Ursula von Rydingsvard. The Conservancy also travels exhibitions—with recent examples including Martin Puryear's *Big Bling* and Erwin Redl's *Whiteout*—collaborating on the presentation and recontextualization of these major projects within new outdoor settings at museums and cultural institutions across the country.

In 2018, the Conservancy was selected as the commissioning institution for the 2019 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 will be presenting a new series of work by Martin Puryear.