

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 7, 2016

Lauren Kistner, Marketing & Communications Manager  
314.615.5277 / [lkistner@laumeier.org](mailto:lkistner@laumeier.org)

## **Laumeier Sculpture Park Launches 40th Anniversary Year with Large-Scale Sculpture Installation**

(ST. LOUIS, MO)—Laumeier Sculpture Park announced today the recent installation of [Alexandre da Cunha's \*Mix \(Americana\)\*, 2013](#) in honor of the Park's [40th Anniversary](#) year. The large-scale artwork was gifted to Laumeier's Permanent Collection by the Brazilian artist and [CRG Gallery](#), New York, following exhibition at the [Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago](#) (MCA) as the fifth [MCA Plaza Project](#). The sculpture is now on view in Laumeier's Museum Circle, visible from the Lower Entrance parking lots.

*Mix (Americana)* is a full-scale cement mixer. Polished and painted in a patriotic red, white and blue, the sculpture has been stripped of its mixing duty on the back of a truck and staged instead as a functional sundial. When viewers peek inside the steel hallowed chamber, light gently reflects and refracts, creating an intricate web of shadows and shapes, giving splendor and mystery to the industrial barrel.

Within the context of Laumeier's green space, *Mix (Americana)* inspires discussion about the suburban landscape and the complex meeting point between natural and manmade environments. "Da Cunha's artwork is a sly commentary on how we now orient ourselves in the landscape using the concrete constructions of the urban world," said Marilu Knode, Laumeier's Executive Director. "*Mix (Americana)* is a meaningful addition to the artworks in the Park that frame our relationship to the environment in new ways."

Da Cunha's artwork adds to Laumeier's thematic focus of [New Territories: BRICS](#), 2015–19. *New Territories* broadens our look at the world's cultural zones as they have directly and indirectly impacted life in St. Louis. Projects, programs and activities twist the economic acronym *BRICS* [Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa] beyond the market forces driving the global economy.

---

### **About the Artist**

Alexandre da Cunha was born in 1969 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He earned his undergraduate degree in 1996 from Fundacao Armando Alvares Penteado – FAAP, São Paulo. Da Cunha attended Royal College of Art, London, and earned his Master of Arts from Chelsea College of Art, London, in 2000. He has had solo exhibitions at CRG Gallery, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; Galeria Luisa Strina, São Paulo; Sommer & Kohl, Berlin; Thomas Dane Gallery, London; Centro Cultural Sao Paulo; Camden Arts Centre, London; CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco; and NAK, Aachen, Germany, among others. His work has been included in group exhibitions at Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh; Museum Beelden Aan Zee, Holland; Museo de Arte Moderno, Medellin, Columbia; Zabłudowicz Collection, London; ICA Boston; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus; Museu de Arte do Rio MAR, Rio de Janeiro; Musee d'Art Modern de la Ville, Paris; Simon Preston Gallery, New York; Warwick Art Centre, Coventry, United Kingdom; Aspen Art Museum; Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art; Witte De With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam; Frankendael Foundation, Amsterdam; and the Whitechapel Gallery, London. His selected museum collections include the Tate Modern, London; Museu de Arte da Pampulha, Belo Horizonte; Inhotim - Instituto de Arte Contemporanea, Brumadinho; CIFO - Cisneros Collection, Miami; and Rennie Collection, Vancouver. Da Cunha lives and works in London.

## 40th Anniversary Activities

Laumeier will kick off its 40th Anniversary festivities with a free, outdoor performance of musical selections in celebration of the Park on Saturday, July 16, at 11:00 a.m. in the Public Plaza outside the Adam Aronson Fine Arts Center. The event features Dr. James Henry with Vocal Point, Dr. Gail Fleming with Melodia and Vaughans Quartet, among others, and includes a presentation of the original composition *Laumeier Sculpture Park Anthem*, by Dr. Barbara Harbach. The performance is organized by Laumeier's 2016 *In-Residence*: Composer Dr. Barbara Harbach and Conductor Dr. James Henry, both faculty at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Supported by the Ferring Family Foundation.

In addition, the St. Louis County Council and the City of Sunset Hills both proclaimed Friday, July 1, 2016, "Laumeier Sculpture Park Day" in honor and celebration of 40 years of providing St. Louis residents and visitors with world-class artistic experiences, education programs and special events in the unique cultural landscape of the Park. More information about Laumeier's unique history will be celebrated and shared throughout the year on Laumeier's website and social media channels ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)).

Exhibitions scheduled for Laumeier's 40th Anniversary year include an indoor multimedia exhibition by Soweto-born, Cape Town-based artist [Mohau Modisakeng](#) in the Whitaker Foundation Gallery at the Adam Aronson Fine Arts Center and an outdoor exhibition by local sculptors [Alison Ouellette-Kirby](#) and Noah Kirby at the Amphitheater in the Way Field for the 2016 Kranzberg Exhibition Series. Both exhibitions open Saturday, November 5, 2016, and run through Sunday, January 29, 2017.

Next spring, Laumeier will open a multisensory exhibition by Mexican new media artist [Rafael Lozano-Hemmer](#), supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, followed by an exhibition by Ghanaian-born conceptual artist Yvonne Osei for the 2017 Kranzberg Exhibition Series, opening fall 2017. With these projects, Laumeier continues its legacy practice of bringing globally renowned artists to St. Louis.

---

## History of Laumeier Sculpture Park

In 1968, Mrs. Matilda Laumeier bequeathed the first 72 acres of the future Laumeier Sculpture Park, together with a large stone house, to St. Louis County in memory of her husband, Henry Laumeier. In 1976, local artist Ernest Trova gifted 40 artworks to St. Louis County, and Laumeier Sculpture Park was dedicated as part of the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation system on July 7, 1976.

Today, Laumeier is a nonprofit, accredited art museum that operates in partnership with [St. Louis County Parks](#). Projects and programs are supported by the Mark Twain Laumeier Endowment Fund, the [Regional Arts Commission](#), the [University of Missouri-St. Louis](#), [Missouri Arts Council](#) and the [Arts and Education Council of St. Louis](#). Laumeier presents 60 works of large-scale outdoor sculpture in a 105-acre park available free to the public year-round, and serves 300,000 patrons annually through temporary exhibitions, education programs, public events and sculpture conservation.

###

Laumeier Sculpture Park is a living laboratory where artists and audiences explore the relationship between contemporary art and the natural environment. Founded in 1976, Laumeier is one of the first and largest dedicated sculpture parks in the country, making it an institution of international significance as well as a unique complement to the cultural landscape of the St. Louis region. Laumeier is a nonprofit, accredited art museum that operates in partnership with St. Louis County Parks. Projects and programs are supported by the Mark Twain Laumeier Endowment Fund, the Regional Arts Commission, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri Arts Council and the Arts and Education Council of St. Louis. Laumeier presents 60 works of large-scale outdoor sculpture in a 105-acre park available free to the public year-round, and serves 300,000 patrons annually through temporary exhibitions, education programs, public events and sculpture conservation.