



ENCORE

The Art Students League of New York Announces

2nd Annual Model to Monument (M2M)

Creating Public Art for Public Spaces

In Partnership with NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

*Large-Scale Sculptures To Be Installed in
Riverside Park South in Manhattan*

April XX, 2012, New York, NY—Following its success last year, The Art Students League of New York (www.artstudentsleague.org), one of America's premier art schools, announced today the second year of "Model to Monument" (M2M), a collaboration with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. The program will culminate with the installation of eight monumental sculptures at Riverside Park South this June.

Last year, M2M featured the installation of seven sculptures for public viewing in Riverside Park South along the Hudson River between 59th and 70th street. Those sculptures will be replaced in June by eight new works created by an international team of League students selected to participate in a nine-month program led by master sculptor Greg Wyatt.

M2M sculptors will also reconfigure the collaborative steel work *Mask*, which was installed last summer in Van Cortlandt Park in

the Bronx. The second year artists will work on-site in the Park to recreate a new sculpture using the existing steel elements.

"M2M trains artists in the process of creating monumental three-dimensional public art with the goal of serving New York City and its people," says Ira Goldberg, executive director of the Art Students League. "The seven sculptures were installed in the first year of the program proved amazingly popular and we are building on that success in the program's second year."

The new M2M works, designed specifically for the park, explore the theme of "flux." The sculptures reflect the changing nature of the Hudson Riverfront and the wider world, and investigate changes in the personal sphere and even in inert objects. The other sculptors are Sequoyah Aono, Roberto Franzone, Michael Hirschfeld, Renata Pugh, Damien Vera, and Olga Rudenko.

"In M2M, we are going beyond a straight studio practice and actually connecting the artists with the rigors of creating public works," says Mr. Wyatt, the sculptor-in-residence at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. "At the League, M2M as a process of career education in creating site-specific public art opportunities continues to grow, mature and offer determined students a uniquely challenging course of study. Whether M2M educational processes are occurring with the students in the field at Riverside South Park, or their learning firsthand from professionals, the necessary public safety and structural engineering elements the League public art education defines an 'open-air,' expansive approach."

Riverside Park is home to a number of permanent statues, monuments and historic structures, including the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial, Grant's Tomb National Monument, and statues or memorials of Joan of Arc, Ralph Ellison, Eleanor Roosevelt and many more.

M2M is supported in part by a generous grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund's Pivotal Place: New York City program, whose goals include cultivating civic life and the natural

environment, encouraging immigrant civic participation, and supporting individual achievement and artistic expression.

The League has a 135-year old legacy of training some of the world's most renowned artists, with alumni including Georgia O'Keefe, Jackson Pollock, Robert Rauschenberg, Thomas Eakins, and Alexander Calder. Working in an atelier-workshop model, the League is open to artists of all levels who wish to learn and practice the language of visual art.

About the Art Students League of New York

The Art Students League of New York is one of America's premier art schools. It was founded in 1875 by artists, for artists, to provide affordable studio-based art education of the highest quality to those interested in making art. Great artists have trained, taught, and exhibited at the League throughout its rich history. Apprenticeships, classes, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and residencies continue the League's legacy of supporting artists and students who intend to make art a profession, and to cultivate a spirit of fraternity among art students. www.artstudentsleague.org

About Parks Art in the Parks Program

Parks' Art in the Parks program has consistently fostered the creation and installation of temporary public art in parks throughout the five boroughs. Since 1967, collaborations with arts organizations and artists have produced hundreds of public art projects in New York City parks. Model 2 Monument is the latest in a long list of distinguished artists and organizations to exhibit in parks. Previous exhibitions have included Ai Weiwei, Roxy Paine, Tom Otterness and Ursula von Rydingsvard.