



The Art Students League of New York

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New Florida Keys Sculpture Trail Will Stretch From Islamorada to Key West

Community to Get Huge Opportunity to See "Monumental" Works

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New York, N.Y. — A musical wind tower, grand stone faces from the ancient world, and a REALLY big bird are just some of the artworks along the brand new Florida Keys Sculpture Trail. Eight sculptures,



created by artists at the Art Students League of New York, arrived in the Keys last week and are being installed permanently for the public's inspiration and enjoyment. [See a map here](#)

The sculpture trail, to be completed this summer, is the realization of an inspiration of two longtime Key West philanthropists, John Padget and Jacob Dekker, who saw the League artists' sculptures in New York City in 2016.

Their vision is now a reality thanks to a huge collaborative effort with the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners, the County's Art in Public Places Committee and Elizabeth Young, Executive Director of the Florida Keys Council of the Arts. Ms. Young teamed with local public and private organizations to curate and supervise the installations. Susann D'Antonio, Chair of the public art committee, and committee member Beth Kaminstein, representing the Islamorada district, worked diligently to find the perfect spot for each dynamic piece. Space is always an issue on the chain of islands, yet the artwork is so outstanding that there were many eager hosts.

Mr. Padget says, "Providing a permanent home for these sculptures from artists at the Art Students League is a real thrill. We hope future ASLNY artists will view eventual

permanent placement of their work on the Florida Keys Sculpture Trail as an attractive opportunity. And, local artists will be stimulated to submit their work as the trail grows."

(Image left: *Wind Tower* installed June 16, 2017 in Grimal Grove on Big Pine Key, Florida)

The sculptures originally stood in Riverside Park South in Manhattan along the Hudson River as part of "Model to Monument," a prestigious eight-year-old public arts program for emerging artists "M2M" is a collaboration of the Art Students League of New York and New York City Parks under the direction of internationally recognized sculptor Greg Wyatt.

Ellen Taylor, Board President at the League, said, "This is a fantastic installation for the Art Students League. We're very proud to make a contribution to the visual arts culture of the Keys. These sculptures represent the League's 140-year prominence in public art. From Daniel Chester French, Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Paul Manship, to Judith Weller, Greg Wyatt and Ai Weiwei, to the M2M sculptors like Sheila Berger and Tanda Francis, League artists have given back to the community through their public work."

Residents of the Keys will enjoy the excitement of discovery along the new sculpture trail. "It's like welcoming new neighbors to the community," said Trish Ruben who lived near the M2M sculptures in New York City. "Each work of art has a different look and story. I found myself studying each, choosing my favorites and enjoying the way they look in all seasons, all light, all weather. It's such a great gift to the community."

Ms. Young of the Florida Keys Council of the Arts, says, "This amazing opportunity offered to the cultural community by Mr. Padgett and Mr. Dekker challenged us on many levels, but is undeniably the most rewarding project for our Public Art Committee since working on the Key West Airport in 2008. We are so proud and honored to guide this project on behalf of the donors."

Mr. Dekker looks forward to a continued partnership with League artists. "We are delighted to see the intensification of the relationship between the ASLNY and the Florida Keys," he says. "A lot has happened since the joint Currents and Confluences Symposium organized by former League director Ira Goldberg and the Studios of Key West in March 2016."

In the coming weeks, the Florida Keys Sculpture Trail will take shape with the installations of sculptures along the 80-mile trail at these locations. [See the map here.](#)

Fragments by Shiho Sato

MoradaWay Arts & Cultural District, MM 81.6
Islamorada Village of Islands
86800 Overseas Highway

Bridge by James Mikhel Emerson and Everything Between by Sarah Thompson Moore:

81001 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, Florida 33070

Stand Tall, Stand Loud, by Aaron Bell and Everyone Breaks, by Tanda Francis

Otherside Adventure Park
59300 Overseas Highway
Marathon, Florida 33050

Leaves of Grass by Markus Rudolph Holtby (installed as of June 19)

The Art Studio
12353 Overseas Highway

Marathon, Florida 33050

Wind Tower, a collaborative work by all seven M2M sculptors (installed as of June 19)

Grimal Grove
258 Cunningham Lane
Big Pine Key, Florida 33043

Avis Gloriam and Nature Eternal, by Sheila Berger

Key West International Airport
3491 South Roosevelt Blvd.
Key West, Florida 33040

Major support for the M2M program was provided by Ludmila Schwartzberg Bidwell, Susan Dryfoos, Kathleen H. Seidel and The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

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. Great artists have trained, taught, and exhibited at the League throughout its rich history. Classes, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and professional development programs continue the League's legacy of supporting students who intend to make art a profession, and cultivating a spirit of community among artists. Among its prominent instructors and students, the League counts Thomas Eakins, Frederic Remington and Reginald Marsh, Georgia O'Keeffe, Norman Rockwell, Jackson Pollock, Robert Rauschenberg, Mark Rothko, Jacob Lawrence, Louise Nevelson, and Ai Weiwei, among many others. Today, thousands of students each year study drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking and mixed media at the League. www.theartstudentsleague.org

About the Florida Keys Council of the Arts

The Florida Keys Council of the Arts is the leading arts and cultural organization in the Florida Keys. As the non-profit local arts agency in Monroe County it connects audiences from around the world to galleries, theaters, museums, festivals, dance, music and more from Key Largo to Key West.

FKCA makes grants, supports Art in Public Places, and promotes the destination for its rich and diverse history in art and culture. The Arts Council provides services to visual and performing artists, arts organizations, students and the public, striving to instill a passion for and participation in the arts.

The mission of the Arts Council is to advance the creative development and promotion of the arts in our cultural community by providing excellence in leadership, advocacy, education and financial support for artists, cultural organizations, and citizens of Monroe County.