



For Immediate Release

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LAUMEIER SCULPTURE PARK ANNOUNCES 2021 IN RESIDENCE ARTISTS AND THINKERS

At a Glance

WHAT: Laumeier's In Residence programs are designed to welcome visiting artists, scholars, and thinkers to spend time at the Park engaging with program participants, visitors and staff. Each residency differs slightly in time span and structure ranging between local, national, and international guests.

WHO: Visiting Artist In Residence: Aida Šehović
Cultural Thinker In Residence: Elvir Mandžukić
Community Artists In Residence: Alejandro Franco & Kelly Jimenez and Mark Pagano

WHEN: Throughout 2021

WHERE: Laumeier Sculpture Park, 12580 Rott Road, St. Louis, MO 63127

WHY: Laumeier's In Residence programs are designed to facilitate exchanges between those in residence and the community, forging interdisciplinary connections between art, nature, and other fields.

Detailed Release Follows



For more information

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MEET LAUMEIER SCULPTURE PARK'S 2021 VISITING ARTIST, CULTURAL THINKER, AND COMMUNITY ARTISTS

St. Louis, MO – Laumeier Sculpture Park is thrilled to announce its 2021 In Residence participants: Visiting Artist In Residence Aida Šehović, Cultural Thinker In Residence Elvir Mandžukić, and Community Artists In Residence Alejandro Franco & Kelly Jimenez and Mark Pagano. In Residence programs support Laumeier's goal of serving as a gathering place for diverse social engagement by bringing other forms of artistic and intellectual practice into the public spaces of the Park.

Details on upcoming programs and events with the 2021 Laumeier In Residence participants will be published at www.laumeier.org/calendar.

VISITING ARTIST IN RESIDENCE / Aida Šehović

The Visiting Artist In Residence creates an opportunity for accomplished artists from outside the region to conduct research, meet St. Louis community members, and explore issues of importance to this region. During the year of residency, the chosen artist engages the community through lectures, group discussion, art activities, and/or volunteer work. It culminates in an exhibition or special project that is shaped or conceived by this research and time spent in the community.

Bosnian-born artist Aida Šehović is the founder of *ŠTO TE NEMA* ("Where have you been?" in Bosnian) – an annual nomadic monument to the victims of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide that traveled to 15 different cities from 2006-2020. The archive of the project consists of more than 8,372 *filđžani* (small porcelain coffee cups) that have been collected and donated by Bosnian families from all over the world.

Šehović will make two visits to St. Louis in 2021, during which she will engage with the local Bosnian community around the ideas of history, outlets for remembrance, displacement, mourning, and community healing through monuments and public engagement. Her residency will conclude with a solo exhibition in the Whitaker Foundation Gallery, running September 18 - December 19, featuring her collection of *filđžani*, photographs, and video relating to and documenting her 15-year traveling monument, *ŠTO TE NEMA*.

Šehović was born in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Along with hundreds of thousands of others was forced to flee her country due to the threat of systematic violence and persecution in 1992. She lived as a refugee in Turkey and Germany before immigrating to the United States in 1997. Šehović earned her BA from the University of Vermont in 2002 and her MFA from Hunter



College in 2010. Her project *ŠTO TE NEMA* has travelled internationally to locations such as Sarajevo, Zurich, Venice, Istanbul, Toronto, Chicago, Boston, and the UN Headquarters. Her work has been exhibited extensively, including at Palazzo Dandolo Paolucci, Venice; Socrates Sculpture Park, and Queens Museum, New York City. She received the ArtsLink Award in 2006, the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship in 2007 and the Emerging Artist Fellowship from Socrates Sculpture Park in 2013. Šehović lives and works in New York City.

CULTURAL THINKER IN RESIDENCE / Elvir Mandžukić

Laumeier's Cultural Thinker In Residence program appoints an individual to engage with Laumeier over the course of one year. Typically a scholar with expertise in a field outside of art, the Cultural Thinker engages Laumeier's visitors in interdisciplinary thinking and learning.

Bosnian-born community organizer Elvir Mandžukić will work with Šehović to bridge connections and develop productive partnerships with St. Louis community members. Together, they will further explore the generational shift of consciousness within the St. Louis Bosnian community and the possibility of future monuments, both static and nomadic.

Born in Zenica, Bosnia, Mandžukić left his hometown on January 13, 1996. Since settling in St. Louis, he received his Master Degree in Education/Secondary Education/Technology in 2006 and his Bachelor Degree in Business Administration/Marketing and International Business in 2000. Mandžukić is an active community member, with a number of volunteer and charitable pursuits including projects with: Islamic Community of Zenica, Bosnia; Bosniak Culture Institute; International Organization for Relief, Welfare and Development; International Medical Corps; International Rescue Committee; Unites States Agency for International Development; World Health Organization; Interrupting the Cycle of Hate-Breeds-Hate; Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis; World Affairs Council; Jewish Muslim Day of Service St Louis and Sarajevo 450 among others. Mandžukić has been the Faculty Development Coordinator at Webster University in St. Louis since 2008.

COMMUNITY ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE / Alejandro Franco, Kelly Jimenez, and Mark Pagano

The Community Artists In Residence program provides opportunities for local artists to expand their practice and engage with the community through workshops, events, and discussions hosted by Laumeier.

Alejandro Franco and Kelly Jimenez are Colombian-born artists now based in St. Louis. Franco is a multidisciplinary artist who works primarily with found objects assemblages and painting. Jimenez has worked as an Art Director, focused mainly on space intervention for film sets, editorial publications, and visual concepts for set design.

These collaborative artists share their love of nature and are seeking ways to celebrate and preserve it. Currently they are creating stained glass imagery from single-use plastics, relying on the material's translucency and color variety to invoke something beautiful that is worth preserving, regardless of its transient and detrimental status. Franco and Jimenez will engage with the community through *Discover Laumeier*, conversation series, and *Laumeier After Dark*.

LAUMEIER

Mark Pagano, is a singer/songwriter, touring musician, recording artist, and educator currently working in St. Louis. Pagano has worked with diverse youth of all ages through songwriting workshops. As part of his residency, he will create programs for upcoming *Discover Laumeier* events and the 2021 summer Teen Art Program.

Pagano has released eight albums of original music and has toured nationally both solo and with his band FIRE DOG. He recently launched his “Endangered Species Project,” a collection of songs that focuses on animals with whom we share this planet. Pagano is currently working on a solo family music record with Grammy Award Winning indie music producer Dean Jones, funded by an Artist Support Grant from the Regional Arts Commission.

About Laumeier Sculpture Park

Founded in 1976, Laumeier Sculpture Park is one of the first and largest sculpture parks in the country. Laumeier presents more than 70 works of large-scale outdoor sculpture throughout its 105-acre campus. It serves 300,000 visitors of all ages each year, with a world-class art collection, indoor and outdoor temporary exhibitions, education programs and public events. Laumeier is an internationally recognized museum, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The 501(c)3 nonprofit organization operates in partnership with St. Louis County Parks.

Laumeier Sculpture Park’s ongoing operations and programs are generously supported by St. Louis County Parks; Regional Arts Commission; Missouri Arts Council; Arts and Education Council; among other corporations, foundations, individual donors and members.

Additional funding related to COVID-19 relief has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Windgate Foundation, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the St. Louis County Small Business Relief Program.

2020-21 exhibitions are supported by Ellen and Durb Curlee, Alison and John Ferring, Jan and Ronnie Greenberg, Nancy and Ken Kranzberg, Joan and Mitchell Markow and Two Sister’s Foundation, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, Mary Ann and Andy Srenco.

Aida Šehović: ŠTO TE NEMA is supported by the Windgate Foundation and the Vilcek Foundation.

For more about Laumeier Sculpture Park, please visit www.laumeier.org

Images (*High-resolution images available upon request*)



ŠTO TE NEMA (Toronto). 9th annual iteration of *ŠTO TE NEMA* at Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto on July 11, 2014. Photo by Sanjin Avdičević. ©AIDA ŠEHOVIĆ



Elvir Mandžukić, photo by CRB Studios



Alejandro Franco and Kelly Jimenez,
Serez Transitorios, 2020. Plastic on paper
mounted on cardboard, 12' x 8';
Commissioned by Granite City Art and
Design District. Courtesy of the Artist.



Mark Pagano performing. Image courtesy
of the Artist.

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