

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Laumeier Sculpture Park Presents Fall Exhibitions by Mohau Modisakeng and Alison Ouellette-Kirby & Noah Kirby

(ST. LOUIS, MO)—Laumeier Sculpture Park presents an indoor multimedia exhibition by South African 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, November 5, 2016–January 29, 2017.

Soweto-born, Cape Town-based Mohau Modisakeng creates lush, elegant photographs and videos that reimagine the black body in contemporary South African society. Modisakeng is often the actor in his simple performances that express issues of rebirth against the historical trauma of colonization and apartheid. The exhibition is curated by Executive Director Marilu Knode and is supported by Adrienne D. Davis, Alison and John Ferring, Patricia Smith-Thurman and the [Des Lee Collaborative Vision](#) at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, with assistance from [WHATIFTHEWORLD Gallery](#), Cape Town.

Mohau Modisakeng's exhibition is the second project organized in collaboration with Mark Coetzee, Founding Executive Director & Chief Curator, [Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa](#) (Zeitz MOCAA), Cape Town, that explores issues of *Truth & Reconciliation* from two distinctly different historical perspectives. The exhibition also supports 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.

For the 2016 Kranzberg Exhibition Series, Laumeier presents *Alison Ouellette-Kirby + Noah Kirby: Arena* at the outdoor Amphitheater in the Way Field. The massive structural installation consists of five sheet-metal megaphones with an interactive audio element. Inspired by their previous *Tone Deaf* series, the artwork incorporates a mechanism that translates and projects visitors' voices into harmonic gibberish as a response to the flora and fauna in the Park. The exhibition is curated by Curator of Exhibitions Dana Turkovic and is supported by Nancy and Ken Kranzberg.

In their collaborative practice, the Kirbys create forms through the traditions of casting and fabrication. Their combination of material confidence and technological play often develops into environments and scenarios that are complex, ambiguous and situational. This large-scale commission expands on their shared artistic production by utilizing the public's language and speech to more directly communicate with the natural environment at Laumeier.

Laumeier Sculpture Park is free and open daily from 8:00 a.m.–30 minutes past sunset. The Adam Aronson Fine Arts Center is open Thursday–Sunday from 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. during exhibitions only.

**What:** *Mohau Modisakeng*, Supported by Adrienne D. Davis, Alison and John Ferring, Patricia Smith-Thurman and the Des Lee Collaborative Vision at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, with assistance from WHATIFTHEWORLD Gallery, Cape Town  
*Alison Ouellette-Kirby + Noah Kirby: Arena*, Supported by Nancy and Ken Kranzberg

**Where:** Laumeier Sculpture Park, 12580 Rott Road, Saint Louis, Missouri 63127  
Adam Aronson Fine Arts Center, Way Field

**When:** Saturday, November 5, 2016–Sunday, January 29, 2017  
Public Opening: Saturday, November 5, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

## Public Programs

Laumeier has partnered with [St. Louis County Library](#) to present *New in the Lou: Examining History through Art* on Wednesday, November 2, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Louis County Library Headquarters. Exhibition artist Mohau Modisakeng will read from one of his favorite books and lead a discussion about his heritage, influences and artwork, including his exhibition at Laumeier. Free; registration is required. Visit [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org) for more information and to register.

Exhibition artists Alison Ouellette-Kirby and Noah Kirby will lead Laumeier's *Coffee + Conversation: Communication with Nature* on Saturday, November 12, at 11:00 a.m. at the Kranzberg Education Lab in support of their new sculpture at the Park. Laumeier's *Conversation Series* provides informal learning opportunities through discussion about new artworks in the temporary exhibitions or legacy artworks in the Permanent Collection. Participants are encouraged to share ideas and ask questions in a relaxed atmosphere. Free; refreshments are provided.

Laumeier will host a free lecture and book signing by Dr. Susan Cahan, Associate Dean of the Arts at Yale University and author of *Mounting Frustration: The Art Museum in the Age of Black Power* (Duke University Press, 2016), on Saturday, November 12, at 1:00 p.m. at the Adam Aronson Fine Arts Center in connection with Laumeier's *Mohau Modisakeng* exhibition. Cahan served as the Des Lee Endowed Professor of Contemporary Art at the University of Missouri-St. Louis for more than five years, where she began this book. Subterranean Books will be on site at the lecture and book signing to sell *Mounting Frustration: The Art Museum in the Age of Black Power*. Free; registration is required. Contact Dana Turkovic, Curator of Exhibitions, at 314.615.5274 or [dturkovic@laumeier.org](mailto:dturkovic@laumeier.org) to register.

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## About the Artists

**Mohau Modisakeng** was born in Soweto in 1986. He completed his undergraduate degree at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, Cape Town, in 2009 and worked toward his Master's degree at the same institution. Modisakeng's work has been exhibited at Galerie Ron Mandos, Amsterdam (2016); Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg (2016); Chavonnes Battery Museum (in partnership with Zeitz MOCAA), Cape Town (2015); Kunstraum Innsbruck, Austria (2015); VOLTA NY, New York (2014); the Museum of Fine Art, Boston (2014); 21C Museum, Louisville (2014); IZIKO South African National Gallery, Cape Town (2014); Saatchi Gallery, London (2012); the Dak'Art Biennale, Dakar (2012); Focus 11, Basel (2011); and Stevenson, Cape Town (2010). Public collections include the Johannesburg Art Gallery, IZIKO South African National Gallery, Saatchi Gallery, the From Cobra to Contemporary Collection, EKARD Collection, Dommering Collection and Zeitz MOCAA. Modisakeng was awarded the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Visual Art in 2016 and the SASOL New Signatures Award in 2011. He lives and works between Johannesburg and Cape Town.

**Alison Ouellette-Kirby** received her B.A. in sculpture and photography from the University of Windsor-Ontario in 1993 and her M.F.A. from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 1996. Her work has been shown both nationally and internationally at Burris Hall Gallery, New Mexico; Highlands University, Las Vegas; University of Wyoming, Laramie; Regional Arts Commission, St. Louis; National Ornamental Metal Museum, Memphis; Schmidt Art Center, Southwestern Illinois College, Belleville; Perkinson Gallery, Kirkland Fine Arts Center, Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois; Kemper Art Gallery, Kansas State University, Manhattan; Art Walk Gallery, Hays, Kansas; Thames Art Gallery, Chatham Cultural Centre, Chatham, Ontario; Applebee Gallery, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois; Biggin Gallery, Auburn University, Alabama; Y Gallery, Granite City, Illinois; Pitt County Arts Council, Greeneville, North Carolina; Peter Youngers Fine Art Gallery, Northeast Junior College, Sterling, Colorado; Gallery 130, University of Mississippi, Oxford; and Good Citizen, St. Louis. Ouellette-Kirby is a professor of art at St. Charles Community College.

**Noah Kirby** received his B.A. from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 1998 and his M.F.A. from Washington University in St. Louis in 2000. Kirby has worked for Cassilly, Inc. at the City Museum and runs N.K. Metalworks, both in St. Louis. His work has been shown nationally and internationally at Finder Arts District, Nanjing, China; National Ornamental Metals Museum, Memphis; University of Wyoming, Laramie; Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois; Thames Art Gallery, Chatham, Ontario; MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois; Moss Thorn Gallery, Hays State University, Kansas; Auburn University, Alabama; Burriss Hall Gallery, New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas; Gallery 130, University of Mississippi, Oxford; Good Citizen, St. Louis; Kidwelly, Wales, United Kingdom; Northeastern Junior College, Sterling Colorado; Powerhouse Gallery, Sloss Furnaces National Historic Site, Birmingham; Appalachian Center for Craft, Smithville, Tennessee; and String Gallery, Toronto, Ontario. Kirby currently teaches at Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He is the co-director of Six Miles Sculpture Works and 50 Brick Artist Residency in Granite City, Illinois.

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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.