

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Laumeier Sculpture Park Acquires Tony Tasset's *Deer*, 2015, in Honor of 40th Anniversary Year

(ST. LOUIS, MO)—Laumeier Sculpture Park announced today the acquisition and upcoming installation of a new sculpture by artist Tony Tasset, whose [Eye, 2007](#), is already one of the most iconic sculptures in the Park. Tasset's *Deer*, 2015, is a larger-than-life, 12-foot-tall sculpture of a white-tailed doe made of painted, steel-reinforced fiberglass. The major acquisition honors and celebrates the nonprofit organization's 40th Anniversary year. The sculpture will be accessioned into Laumeier's Permanent Collection and installed in the Way Field in August 2017.

[Tony Tasset](#) is arguably one of the most inventive sculptors working in the United States today. Since the mid-1990s, he has created increasingly ambitious sculptures; his cunning work explores how we collectively dwell in the landscape. *Deer* celebrates the unique environment created when art frames nature. The artwork's size suggests how nature is out of balance in today's urban and suburban spaces, and how humans impact the species around us. The surreal juxtaposition of the super-sized deer emerging from the woods dramatizes the relationship of what it means to be human, the identity of sculpture and their respective places in nature.

"As one of the first and largest dedicated sculpture parks in the country, Laumeier Sculpture Park has set many of the standards for public practice that combine curated public art with the interpretation and stewardship of a traditional indoor museum," said Dana Turkovic, Associate Curator at Laumeier Sculpture Park. "Tasset's *Deer* has the potential to become a new icon of the cultural landscape of the Park, serving as both a welcoming hostess and photo opportunity for Laumeier's 300,000 annual visitors."

The Big Dinner Fundraiser

Laumeier will host *The Big Dinner* fundraiser on Saturday, September 23, in celebration of the arrival of *Deer* and the close of Laumeier's 40th Anniversary year. *The Big Dinner* features a unique outdoor dining experience, drinks, entertainment and more in the Park under the stars. Board Members, Members, donors and friends will be acknowledged and thanked for their support throughout the Park's 40-year history. Patron, donor and sponsor guests will enjoy an exclusive pre-event VIP Reception with artist Tony Tasset. Ages 21 and up only; reservations are \$250–\$500 (no physical tickets). Visit www.laumeier.org/big-dinner to purchase online.

What: [The Big Dinner](#)

Where: Laumeier Sculpture Park, 12580 Rott Road, Saint Louis, Missouri 63127

When: Friday, September 23, 6:30 p.m.

Co-Chairs: Alison Ferring, Matt Harvey, Suzanne Sierra, Mary Ann Srenco

Sponsors: Alison and John Ferring, Edward Jones, Emerson, Nancy and Ken Kranzberg, Lewis Rice, Mary Ann and Andy Srenco, Washington University in St. Louis, Wells Fargo Advisors, Husch Blackwell, Carol and Michael Staenberg; In-kind support provided by Cheree Berry Paper, Flower Hill Farm, Major Brands Premium Beverage Distributors

Deer Campaign Donors

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About the Artist

[Tony Tasset](#) was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1960. He received his B.F.A. at the Art Academy of Cincinnati in 1983 and his M.F.A. at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1985. Tasset works with video, photography, bronze, wax, fiberglass, film and even taxidermy. His work employs wisdom and wit and continuously contends with the trappings of Modernism, Postmodern theory, pop culture and the universal human emotions associated with love, loss, frailty and beauty. Tasset's work is in the permanent collections of prestigious museums including the Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Museum Fur Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, among others.

40th Anniversary Activities

Laumeier Sculpture Park kicked off its 40th Anniversary year on July 1, 2016, with proclamations from the St. Louis County Council and the City of Sunset Hills naming it "Laumeier Sculpture Park Day." Later that same month, Laumeier presented a free performance of musical selections in celebration of the Park. The performance was 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.

Online, Laumeier published [40 Ways to Celebrate Laumeier's 40th Anniversary](#) in quarterly installments throughout the anniversary year, and recently concluded a year-long historical highlights campaign on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (#tbt, #laumeier40, #lovelaumeier). Laumeier continues to work with [Paradowski Creative](#) to develop an interactive microsite to celebrate the Park and its history. The microsite is supported by a grant from the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) and set to launch by the end of this summer.

History of Laumeier Sculpture Park

In 1968, Mrs. Matilda Laumeier bequeathed the first 72 acres of the future Laumeier Sculpture Park to St. Louis County in memory of her husband, Henry Laumeier. In 1976, local artist Ernest Trova gifted 40 artworks, with an estimated market value of approximately one million dollars, to St. Louis County for the formation of a sculpture park and gallery. Laumeier Sculpture Park opened as part of the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation system on July 7, 1976, and was officially incorporated one year later.

Forty years, 650 artist commissions and exhibitions, and 8,000 education programs later, Laumeier has grown to 105 acres showcasing 60 works of large-scale outdoor sculpture. In 2015, Laumeier closed its first major capital campaign, *Sculpting the Future*, which culminated in the renovation of the Laumeier's 1917 Estate House into the Kranzberg Education Lab and the construction of the new Adam Aronson Fine Arts Center for exhibitions, programs and events.

The nonprofit arts organization is accredited by the [American Alliance of Museums](#) and operates in a uniquely successful private / public partnership with [St. Louis County Parks](#). Projects and programs are supported by the Mark Twain Laumeier Endowment Fund, the [Regional Arts Commission](#), the [Missouri Arts Council](#), the [Arts and Education Council of St. Louis](#) and the [University of Missouri-St. Louis](#). Free and open daily, Laumeier serves 300,000 visitors of all ages each year through sculpture conservation, education programs, temporary exhibitions and public events.

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Laumeier Sculpture Park: Engaging the community through art and nature / Laumeier Sculpture Park is one of the first and largest dedicated sculpture parks in the country. Laumeier is an internationally recognized, nonprofit arts organization that is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and operates in partnership with St. Louis County Parks. Laumeier presents 60 works of large-scale outdoor sculpture in a 105-acre park located in the heart of St. Louis County. Free and open daily, Laumeier serves 300,000 visitors of all ages each year through sculpture conservation, education programs, temporary exhibitions and public events.