



**For Immediate Release**

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**LAUMEIER SCULPTURE PARK ANNOUNCES NEW OUTDOOR  
EXHIBITION BY 2023 VISITING ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE,  
LENKA CLAYTON AND PHILLIP ANDREW LEWIS**

**At a Glance**

**WHAT:** A new Laumeier Sculpture Park-commissioned, large-scale installation titled *A Number of Tragedies* (working title) that depicts many kite-shaped aluminum sculptures embedded into a grove of trees at the Park.

**WHO:** Pittsburgh-based artists Lenka Clayton and Phillip Andrew Lewis, Laumeier's 2023 Visiting Artists In Residence.

**WHEN:** On view August 26-December 17, 2023.

**WHERE:** Laumeier Sculpture Park,  
12580 Rott Road, St. Louis, 63127  
Outdoor Galleries, The Way Field

**WHY:** With playfulness and humor, Clayton and Lewis explore the interconnectivity and tension within the human-nature relationship. The colorful, tragi-comic kites that comprise their new piece at Laumeier express the amusement and creativity that kites symbolize as well as the sense of disappointment when they cease to function. This artwork suggests kites as a type of kinetic sculpture that ties the user directly to nature.



Above: Maquette for *A Number of Tragedies* (working title), 2023.

***Detailed release follows***



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**Laumeier Sculpture Park presents new sculptural commission of aluminum kites by Visiting Artists In Residence Lenka Clayton and Phillip Andrew Lewis**

**St. Louis, MO** – This August Laumeier Sculpture Park will debut a new sculpture commission by Pittsburgh-based artists Lenka Clayton and Phillip Andrew Lewis, *A Number of Tragedies* (working title), on view August 26 – December 17, 2023 in Laumeier’s Outdoor Galleries.

Clayton and Lewis are Laumeier’s 2023 Visiting Artists In Residence, and this collaborative duo utilizes innovative approaches to conceptualism and minimalism to realize their work in sculpture, performance, and multi-media installation. With playfulness and humor, they explore interconnectivity and tension within the human-nature relationship, often with a focus on the balance between the individual and the collective.

For Laumeier, they will create a new work titled *A Number of Tragedies* (working title), a series of kite-shaped aluminum sculptures embedded in the branches of a grove of persimmon trees in Laumeier’s Way Field. The tangled web of color, shape and string imparts a sense of humor central to Clayton and Lewis’ practice and expresses amusement, creativity, and the intersection between us and the natural world.

Kites are objects of creative play and wonder, a type of kinetic sculpture that ties the user directly to nature, toying with a delicate balance between control and chance. Clayton and Lewis’ vibrant installation will celebrate the creative expression in kite design and the participatory element of kite festivals, while taking a tongue-in-cheek look at the irony of kites being both propelled and obstructed by Mother Nature.

Clayton and Lewis explain: “For us, *A Number of Tragedies*, equally explores comedy and tragedy. The tangled kite forms, each a potential remnant of a day that ended in tears, are still vibrant and functioning as best they can. The diamonds trapped and, in some cases, pierced by branches still have their flapping tails somewhat animated by the wind as they tangle around one other and gently age. Nature will bring a second opening celebration in Fall when the leaves drop and the full work is revealed.”

Clayton and Lewis will also create a film inspired by their installation, documenting a demo flight with members of the Gateway Kite Club and a communal kite fly with Park visitors that will take place during the *Discover Laumeier* event on August 27.

Laumeier’s Curator Dana Turkovic states: “Kites have a rich history, and the image of countless kites populating the sky in the Park and sometimes in the trees, opens up many conversations



around sculpture in nature, the relationship between comedy and failure, the expressive design and function of kites, engineering, and the science of flight.”

Laumeier is also proud to announce a new sponsor of the Visiting Artist In Residence Program: 21c Museum Hotel St. Louis, which opens to the public in downtown St. Louis in August 2023. As part of this sponsorship, 21c Museum Hotel St. Louis will provide guest accommodations for Visiting Artists In Residence and co-host special programs featuring those artists for hotel guests and the public.

Laumeier’s Executive Director Lauren Ross states, “Laumeier is thrilled to begin this ongoing relationship with 21c Museum Hotel St. Louis. Laumeier has great respect for and affinity with 21c Museum Hotels. Their hotels not only offer guests unique experiences featuring a vast array of contemporary artworks, but they also support local artists and art scenes in each of the cities in which they operate. I’m certain that 21c will bring yet another exciting facet to our local arts offerings and help introduce guests to St. Louis’ rich cultural offerings.”

### **About the Artists**

Lenka Clayton and Phillip Andrew Lewis are featured artists in the 2022 FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art. Other recent collaborative exhibitions include *Darkhouse*, *Lighthouse*, a permanent public artwork in Pittsburgh and *Plaque*, a permanent public artwork at Black Cube Nomadic Museum in Pittsburgh.

Clayton received her MA in Documentary Direction from the National Film & Television School, Beaconsfield, United Kingdom. She received her BA in 1999 from Central St. Martins School of Art, London. Her recent selected exhibitions include Blanton Museum of Art, Austin; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the Columbus Museum of Art. Clayton is the founder of An Artist Residency in Motherhood, an open-source artist residency program.

Lewis earned his MFA in Photography from the Memphis College of Art in 2000 and his BA in Psychology from the University of Memphis in 1996. His recent selected exhibitions include The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, East Lansing, Michigan; Atlanta Contemporary Art Center; Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha and 21C Museum, Louisville.

For more information, visit [claytonandlewis.com](http://claytonandlewis.com).

### **Public Programs**

Multiple exhibition-related public programs—many free of charge—will be presented.

#### **ARTIST PRESENTATION / Thursday, August 10 / 7 p.m. / 21c Museum Hotel / Free**

Join 21c Museum Hotel St. Louis for a presentation by artists Lenka Clayton and Phillip Andrew Lewis. For more information, please follow @21cstl on Instagram or visit [21cmuseumhotels.com/stlouis](http://21cmuseumhotels.com/stlouis).

#### **EXHIBITION OPENING / Saturday, August 26 / 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. / Free**

The public is invited to celebrate the opening of the project with the artists in attendance.



**DISCOVER LAUMEIER / Sunday, August 27 / 11 am – 3 p.m. / Free**

*Discover Laumeier* invites all ages to explore Laumeier's 105 acres, uncover the inspiring effects of artmaking, and soak in the calming and restorative benefits of the natural landscape. Among the day's free offerings will be kite-related activities inspired by Lenka Clayton and Phillip Andrew Lewis' installation, including a community kite fly. The Gateway Kite Club will be on hand teaching kite-making and sharing tips and tricks for successful kite flying in any weather. Other wind-driven art activities will include making flags and wind chimes.

**VIRTUAL CONVERSATION / Thursday, September 28 / 6:30 p.m., via Zoom / Free**

Join Laumeier's 2023 Visiting Artists In Residence, Lenka Clayton and Phillip Andrew Lewis, for an artist talk to learn about their artistic practice and current installation at Laumeier, *A Number of Tragedies* (working title).

Visit [laumeier.org](http://laumeier.org) for the most up-to-date information on exhibition-related programming.

**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 350,000 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; among other corporations, foundations, individual donors, and members.

2023 Exhibitions are supported by Alison and John Ferring, Ken and Nancy Kranzberg, Joan and Mitchell Markow and Two Sisters Foundation, Emily Rauh Pulitzer, and Mary Ann and Andy Srenco.

Lenka Clayton and Phillip Andrew Lewis and the Visiting Artist In Residence Program are supported by Whitaker Foundation and Windgate Foundation. The Visiting Artist In Residence Program is sponsored by 21c Museum Hotel St. Louis.

For more about Laumeier Sculpture Park, please visit [www.laumeier.org](http://www.laumeier.org).

**Images**

High-resolution images available upon request.



**Lenka Clayton and Phillip Andrew Lewis**

*A Number of Tragedies* (working title), 2023

Sculptural maquette

Dimensions variable

Courtesy of the artists, Pittsburgh

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