

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 23, 2018 Lauren Kistner, Director of Marketing & Communications 314.615.5277 / <u>lkistner@laumeier.org</u>

Laumeier Sculpture Park Presents Farid Rasulov: 1001 Skewers, Opening April 7, 2018

(ST. LOUIS, MO)—Laumeier Sculpture Park presents *Farid Rasulov: 1001 Skewers* in the Aronson Fine Arts Center Whitaker Foundation Gallery, April 7–July 29, 2018. An outdoor commission, Rasulov's *Bird #1*, 2018, will also be installed in Laumeier's Northern Grove. The exhibition is curated by Dana Turkovic and supported by an Independent Artist Project grant from <u>CEC Artslink</u>, <u>Zymo Sculpture Studio</u>, Joan and Mitch Markow, and Mary and James Canova.

Farid Rasulov: 1001 Skewers is a large-scale, indoor sculptural installation using more than 1,000 stainlesssteel kebab skewers, with configurations based on Azeri fairytales. *Bird #1*, 2018, is a monumental, outdoor sculpture commission—the fiberglass artwork is a formal extraction of geometric, abstract shapes found in Azeri carpet patterns. Rasulov's two installations are whimsical, humorous applications of design techniques inspired by the artist's heritage in Azerbaijan.

Rasulov states, "This exhibition is devoted to different situations, where each object in contact with other, similar objects passes from the state of the object to the state of the story—the idea is born, and life begins."

Based in Baku, Azerbaijan, <u>Farid Rasulov</u> trained to be a doctor at the Azerbaijan State Medical University and has since become an artist. Rasulov draws his subjects from the traditional, cultural practices that slowly become erased from the Azerbaijani collective memory in the face of a rapidly modernizing and globalizing social-political context. Rasulov's project at Laumeier continues his current exploration in sculpture based on complex, cultural references from the Caucasus.

What:Farid Rasulov: 1001 SkewersSupported by CEC Artslink, Zymo Sculpture Studio, Joan and Mitch Markow, and Mary and James Canova

Where:Laumeier Sculpture Park, 12580 Rott Road, Saint Louis, Missouri 63127Aronson Fine Arts Center Whitaker Foundation Gallery

When:Saturday, April 7–Sunday, July 29, 2018Free Opening Reception: Saturday, April 7, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Artist Biography

Farid Rasulov was born in 1985 in Shusha, Azerbaijan. Solo exhibitions include Gallery Rabouan Moussion, Paris; Sharjah Islamic Art Festival, Sharjah, UAE; Aidan Gallery, Moscow, Russia; and Kichik QalArt Gallery, Baku, Azerbaijan. Selected group exhibitions include Kunsthistorisches Museum-Neue Burg, Vienna; Spazio D-Maxxi National Museum of XXI Century Arts, Rome; Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow; ME Collectors Room, Berlin; Hotel Salomon de Rothschild, Paris; Phillips de Pury & Company, London; 55th Venice Biennale, Azerbaijan Pavilion, Venice; Modern Art Museum, Baku; YARAT Contemporary Art Space, Baku; Gazelli Art House, London; Kichik QalArt Gallery, Baku; Perm Museum of Modern Art (PERMM), Perm, Russia; Aidan Gallery, Moscow; Deutch Kyrkha, Baku; Voltahalle, Basel, Switzerland; M'ARS Gallery, Moscow; 53rd Venice Biennale, Azerbaijan Pavilion, Venice; Atrium of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Berlin; and Residenzschloss, Dresden. Rasulov lives and works in Baku, Azerbaijan.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Artist Lecture: Farid Rasulov

Friday, April 6 / 12:00–1:00 p.m. / Free, Adult Audiences Webster University Sverdrup Hall, Room 123

Coffee & Conversation with Artist Farid Rasulov

Saturday, April 7 / 10:00–11:00 a.m. / Free, Adult Audiences Laumeier Sculpture Park Aronson Fine Arts Center

Cocktails & Conversation with In-Residence: Poet Stefene Russell

Thursday, June 21 / 6:00–7:30 p.m. / Free, Ages 21 and up Laumeier Sculpture Park Aronson Fine Arts Center

Laumeier's <u>Conversation Series</u> offers free, informal learning opportunities for adult audiences through lectures and discussions about art and nature with staff members, visiting artists and community leaders. Coffee and cocktail events encourage participants to ask questions in a relaxed atmosphere. Refreshments are provided.

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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.