



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC ART FUND ANNOUNCES 2024 EXHIBITION PROGRAM

Five Artists Will Reimagine Human, Social, and Environmental Boundaries in New Commissions:

Clifford Prince King: Let me know when you get home

Opening February 21, 2024

JCDecaux Bus Shelters and Newsstands Across New York City, Chicago, and Boston

Huma Bhabha

Opening April 30, 2024

Brooklyn Bridge Park

Cannupa Hanska Luger: Attrition

Opening June 5, 2024

City Hall Park, Lower Manhattan

Adrienne Elise Tarver

Opening August 14, 2024

JCDecaux Bus Shelters and Newsstands Across New York City, Chicago, and Boston

Edra Soto: Graft

Opening September 5, 2024

Doris C. Freedman Plaza, Central Park

November 8, 2023, NEW YORK, NY—Public Art Fund announces its 2024 exhibition program featuring five artists working at the forefront of photography, painting, and sculpture to examine pressing issues of identity, the impact of history, and our social and natural ecosystems. Through their public art commissions, these artists will share stories of interconnectedness, articulated through relationships between people, animals, science fiction, and architecture. Together, they will question real and perceived boundaries between living beings and the spaces we inhabit.

The 2024 season premieres in February with **Clifford Prince King's** first public art exhibition, a new series of photographs on JCDecaux bus shelters and newsstands across New York City, Chicago, and Boston. Made over the artist's recent summer residencies and travels, *Let me know when you get home* depicts scenes of communality and intimacy, serving as a meditation on travel, friendship, and wellbeing. In April, **Huma Bhabha** will present four new monumental sculptures in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Cast in bronze, Bhabha's hybrid figures will merge the fantastical, grotesque, and ancient to reflect on states of being through the lens of science

fiction and the mythic. Debuting in June, **Cannupa Hanska Luger's** exhibition of new site-specific sculptures in City Hall Park, *Attrition*, will be inspired by the history of the North American bison, which were systematically brought to near-extinction following the arrival of Europeans. The bison had been vital to sustaining Indigenous populations, who consider them sacred to this day. Debuting in August on JCDecaux bus shelters and newsstands, **Adrienne Elise Tarver's** body of paintings and watercolors will depict Black women in scenes of rest and repose as an examination of bus shelters as a site of historical importance and the humanity of Black women in the public realm. Her subjects will "accompany" commuters using the bus shelters as a place of respite on their daily journeys. Finally, in September, **Edra Soto** will unveil *Graft*, her first public commission in New York City, at Doris C. Freedman Plaza in Central Park. The artist's architectural intervention references the aesthetic, decorative, and nostalgic qualities of iron *rejas*, or screens, common to post-war Puerto Rican architecture. Both a sculpture and an invitation for social engagement, *Graft* will beckon audiences to consider the makings of community, the legacies of colonization witnessed through migrating architectural forms, and the imprints of history on our surroundings.

"These five artists employ unique artistic languages to reimagine states of being through culture and creation, exploring interconnectedness, human impact, and the boundaries between beings and our environment," said **Nicholas Baume, Public Art Fund Artistic & Executive Director**. "Their works tackle subjects from the deeply personal to the globally urgent, offering compelling perspectives that challenge convention and invite reflection."

Clifford Prince King: Let me know when you get home
Opening February 21, 2024

JCDecaux Bus Shelters and Newsstands Across New York City, Chicago, and Boston

Clifford Prince King (b. 1993, Tucson, Arizona) will share a new autobiographical series of 13 photographs. A self-taught artist based in New York, King documents his intimate relationships and experiences as a queer Black man, recording his life and the ways it is shaped by the people that surround him. While King's photographs are deeply personal, they also extend an invitation to diverse audiences seeking a sense of safety and belonging.

For King's first public art exhibition, the artist photographed the people and places he encountered in his residences and travels to São Paulo, Fire Island, Syracuse, Vermont, and the Cayman Islands during the summer of 2023. Venturing across these destinations, King created a visual journal on film, exploring themes of nurture, nature, intimacy, claiming space, and the significance of creating a home. *Let me know when you get home* will be presented on JCDecaux bus shelters and newsstands across New York City, Chicago, and Boston.

Clifford Prince King: Let me know when you get home is curated by Public Art Fund Adjunct Curator Katerina Stathopoulou.

Huma Bhabha
Opening April 30, 2024
Brooklyn Bridge Park

Huma Bhabha (b. 1962, Karachi, Pakistan) will present a series of four new large-scale figures against the verdant backdrop of Brooklyn Bridge Park. Based in Poughkeepsie, New York, Bhabha creates objects, drawings, and sculptural works that depict the strangeness and

vulnerability of the contemporary figure. Her hybridized forms, which borrow from ancient and modern cultural sources alike, exude emotion and humor. Posing questions about the alien qualities of beings and how life forms are considered monstrous, Bhabha's work probes the intersections of science fiction, horror, abstraction, and archaic expression.

Drawing from both natural and manmade materials, Bhabha's outdoor public installations serve as large-scale contemplations on nature, war, and civilizations across time. At once monumental, grotesque, and humorous, these sculptures presented with Public Art Fund will continue her engagement with the human figure.

Huma Bhabha's exhibition is curated by Public Art Fund Artistic & Executive Director Nicholas Baume with support from Public Art Fund Assistant Curator Jenée-Daria Strand.

Cannupa Hanska Luger: Attrition
Opening June 5, 2024
City Hall Park, Lower Manhattan

Cannupa Hanska Luger (b. 1979, Standing Rock Reservation, North Dakota) will debut a new body of sculptures at City Hall Park in Lower Manhattan. Luger is an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes of Fort Berthold and is Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara and Lakota—an identity that deeply informs his works in sculpture, installation, performance, and video. His bold style of visual storytelling presents new ways of seeing our humanity while foregrounding an Indigenous worldview.

For his Public Art Fund exhibition, *Attrition*, Luger will create a site-specific installation of skeletal sculptures drawing attention to how the loss of animal species, particularly bison, has impacted North American communities and the environment over the past 150 years. The bison—a recurring thematic element in Luger's work—is a symbol of Indigenous resilience and sovereignty for the artist. The sculptures will shed light on the history and environmental impact of the near extinction of bison examining the loss, trauma, and violence that can result from a single disruption in an ecosystem. The exhibition will highlight the interrelation of animal and human life and its impact on land.

Cannupa Hanska Luger: Attrition is curated by Public Art Fund Adjunct Curator Katerina Stathopoulou.

Adrienne Elise Tarver
Opening August 14, 2024
JCDecaux Bus Shelters and Newsstands Across New York City, Chicago, and Boston

Adrienne Elise Tarver's (b. 1985, New Jersey) presentation on hundreds of JCDecaux bus shelters and newsstands in New York City, Chicago, and Boston, will feature a series of paintings foregrounding the bus shelter as a site of physical respite and sociopolitical catalyzation. An interdisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, New York, Tarver's practice spans painting, sculpture, installation, photography, textiles, and video. Her work addresses multifaceted Black female identities, including history within domestic spaces, the fantasy of the tropical seductress, and the archetype of the all-knowing spiritual matriarch.

Tarver's Public Art Fund exhibition will explore the visibility and invisibility of Black women and the seats they can—or cannot—take within public and social spaces. She will create a series of paintings of Black women, depicted within scenes of rest and locales of ease. The seated women in Tarver's paintings will be positioned as companions to people sitting and resting at these bus shelters, sharing a simple moment in the midst of a bustling city and complicated life. This exhibition will mark the artist's first solo public art exhibition.

Adrienne Elise Tarver's exhibition is curated by Public Art Fund Assistant Curator Jenée-Daria Strand.

Edra Soto: Graft

Opening September 5, 2024

Doris C. Freedman Plaza, Central Park

Public Art Fund will debut Edra Soto's new interactive metal and terrazzo sculptural works at Doris C. Freedman Plaza in Central Park. Edra Soto (b. 1971, Puerto Rico) is a Chicago-based artist whose practice draws from her Puerto Rican roots to instigate conversations about history, diasporic identity, and constructed social orders. The artist's ongoing series, *Graft*, integrates architectural intervention and social practice to investigate the relationships between Puerto Rican cultural memory, its African heritage, and the threads of colonial historical lineage in the United States.

Her first large-scale public art commission in New York City, Soto's Public Art Fund project marks the next iteration of her *Graft* series. Soto will continue her practice of using *rejas*, patterned wrought iron screens ubiquitous in post-war Puerto Rican architecture, to illustrate the complex relationship between historical memory and community involvement. A metal lattice and terrazzo screen will stretch across Doris C. Freedman Plaza, accompanied by domino tables and chairs that invite audiences to sit down for a game, clarifying Soto's call for a public forum. Both an architectural intervention of space and an invitation for community engagement, *Graft* will welcome passers-by, locals and visitors alike to immerse in and consider the making of community and imprinting of history.

Edra Soto: Graft is curated by Public Art Fund Senior Curator Melanie Kress with support from Public Art Fund Assistant Curator Jenée-Daria Strand, and initial development by former Public Art Fund Senior Curator Allison Glenn.

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ABOUT PUBLIC ART FUND

As the leader in its field, Public Art Fund brings dynamic contemporary art to a broad audience in New York City and beyond by mounting ambitious free exhibitions of international scope and impact that offer the public powerful experiences with art and the urban environment.

SUPPORT

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