



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC ART FUND TO PRESENT FOUR MONUMENTAL BRONZE SCULPTURES BY HUMA BHABHA AT BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK



Huma Bhabha: Before The End
April 30, 2024–March 9, 2025
Brooklyn Bridge Park, Pier 3 Uplands

March 28, 2024, New York, NY—Opening April 30, Public Art Fund will debut ***Huma Bhabha: Before The End***, an exhibition featuring a series of four new large-scale bronze sculptures set against the verdant backdrop of Brooklyn Bridge Park. Drawing inspiration from a diverse array of influences, Bhabha’s works blend aesthetic, cultural, and psychological elements, probing the intersections of art, science fiction, horror, and mythology.

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Based in Poughkeepsie, New York, Bhabha creates sculptures, drawings, and installations that reimagine the figure. She made the four bronze sculptures featured in *Before The End* by casting carved cork and skull fragments. The mysterious figures recall ancient effigies cut into tombstones.

These expressive eight-foot-tall forms, titled *Feel the Hammer*, *Member*, *Mr. Stone*, and *Nothing Falls*, appear to be emerging from the depths of the earth, or perhaps returning to the underworld, their surfaces evoking centuries of eroded sediment and stone. The exhibition's title, *Before The End*, creates a sense of momentous intensity, theatricality, and subtle humor. Like the sculptures themselves, Bhabha's influences span across time and genre, including classic cult horror films like *Destroy All Monsters*, H.R. Giger's designs for the *Alien* franchise, and the work of artists including Giacometti, Marisol, and Basquiat.

"Huma Bhabha's eccentric characters captivate through contradiction, seemingly forged in geological time yet animated with a visceral sense of immediacy," said **Public Art Fund Executive & Artistic Director Nicholas Baume**. "*Before The End* is set amidst the expansive landscape of Brooklyn Bridge Park, a site where natural and man-made elements converge, allowing the works to take on a profound sense of connection to the earth."

Situated in staggered positions along the Pier 3 Uplands at Brooklyn Bridge Park, Bhabha's monumental sculptures will conjure a sense of mystery and ambiguity. Surrounded by formidable landmarks, including the Statue of Liberty, One World Trade, and the waterways and bridges between boroughs, viewers are prompted to contemplate these totemic, larger-than-life forms. The park itself also serves as a significant setting, having undergone an evolution over time that conceals the rubble of centuries of history beneath its surface.

Before The End is Bhabha's second time presenting work with Public Art Fund, following the inclusion of her sculpture, [The Orientalist](#), in the group exhibition [Statuesque](#) at City Hall Park in 2010. She continues to push the boundaries of contemporary sculpture with her unique visual language. Bhabha's hybrid forms seem to exist in their own parallel universe, offering visitors an opportunity to reflect upon their own time and place.

Huma Bhabha: Before The End is curated by **Public Art Fund Executive & Artistic Director Nicholas Baume** with support from **Public Art Fund Assistant Curator Jenée-Daria Strand**.

[@PublicArtFund](#) [#HumaBhabha](#)

WHEN & WHERE

Starting on April 30, 2024, *Before The End* will be on view at the Pier 3 Uplands in Brooklyn Bridge Park. The exhibition can be explored anytime, anywhere, on the free **Bloomberg Connects** app.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Since the 1990s, Huma Bhabha (b. 1962) has become known for layered and nuanced work that centers on reinvention of the figure and its expressive possibilities. Her formally inventive practice encompasses sculpture, drawings, and photography. Born in Karachi, Pakistan, Bhabha moved to the United States in 1981 to attend Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, from which she received her BFA in 1985. She later studied at the School of the Arts at Columbia University, New York, from which she received her MFA in 1989. The artist presently lives and works in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Bhabha has been the recipient of notable awards, such as The American Academy in Berlin's Berlin Prize, the Guna S. Mundheim Fellowship (2013), and the Emerging Artist Award from The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut (2008). In 2022, Bhabha was elected as a National Academician by the The National Academy of Design, New York. In 2023, the artist was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York.

In 2023, M Leuven, Belgium, presented the solo exhibition *Huma Bhabha: LIVIN' THINGS*. The show traveled to MO.CO., Montpellier, France, in November 2023, as *Huma Bhabha: A fly appeared, and disappeared*. A solo presentation of Bhabha's work curated by Nicholas Baume, *Touching Earth*, was on view at Fundación Casa Wabi, Puerto Escondido, Mexico, from 2022 to 2023. In 2020, the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, England, presented *Huma Bhabha: Against Time*. The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, organized *Huma Bhabha: They Live*, on view in 2019, and published an accompanying catalog. An installation of the artist's work, *Huma Bhabha: We Come in Peace*, was commissioned by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, in 2018 for their roof garden.

Previous solo exhibitions have taken place at prominent institutions such as The Contemporary Austin, Texas (2018); MoMA PS1, Long Island City, New York (2012); Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy (2012); Aspen Art Museum, Colorado (2011); and The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut (2008), among others. Bhabha's work has also been included in numerous group exhibitions internationally, including the 2019 *Yorkshire Sculpture International*, Wakefield, United Kingdom; the 56th Venice Biennale, *All the World's Futures* (2015); and the 2010 Whitney Biennial.

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RELATED FREE PROGRAMMING

Opening Night Celebration

Monday, April 29, 2024

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm ET

Free and Open to the Public

Pier 3 Uplands, Brooklyn Bridge Park, Brooklyn

Join Public Art Fund for a drop-in event with opening remarks, vegan donuts from Cloudy Donut Co., mocktails by Canard Inc., and a chance to explore the exhibition for the first time.

Public Art Fund Talks: Huma Bhabha

Date to be announced

The Cooper Union, Frederick P. Rose Auditorium
41 Cooper Sq, New York, NY 10008

VISITING THE EXHIBITION

Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation, known as Brooklyn Bridge Park (BBP), is the not-for-profit entity responsible for the planning, construction, maintenance and operation of Brooklyn Bridge Park, an 85-acre sustainable waterfront park spanning 1.3 miles along Brooklyn's East River shoreline. As steward of the park, BBP has transformed this previously deteriorated stretch of waterfront into a world-class park where the public can gather, play, relax and enjoy sweeping views of New York Harbor. The self-sustaining park was designed by the award-winning firm of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. and features expansive lawns, rolling hills, waterfront promenades, innovative playgrounds, a greenway, sports facilities and the popular Jane's Carousel. BBP serves thousands of people on any given seasonal day, who come to picnic, walk their dog, play soccer, jog, roller skate, and more. Brooklyn Bridge Park is a signature public investment for the 21st Century and will be an enduring legacy for the communities, elected officials and public servants who made it happen.

Subways: A, C to High Street; F to York Street; 2, 3 to Clark Street; R to Court Street; 4, 5 to Borough Hall.

Buses: B25 to Fulton Ferry Landing; B67 to Jay Street & York Street.

Ferry: East River Ferry, New York Water Taxi, or Governors Island Ferry to Brooklyn Bridge Park.

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.

SUPPORTS

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the presenting sponsor of *Huma Bhabha: Before The End*.

Leadership support for *Before The End* is provided by David Zwirner Gallery, the Girlfriend Fund, Jennifer Sykes Harris, and Elizabeth Fearon Pepperman & Richard C. Pepperman II with champion support from Elise & Andrew Brownstein, Ellen & Andrew Celli, Kirsh Foundation, Andrea Krantz & Harvey M. Sawikin, Holly & Jonathan Lipton, Jennifer & Jason New, Rasika & Girish Reddy, Karen & Sam Seymour, Donna Green & Michael Sternberg, and Allison Wiener & Jeffrey Schackner; and generous support from the Blue Rider Group at Morgan Stanley, Susan

& Jonathan Bram, the Deborah Buck Foundation, and Linda Lennon & Stuart Baskin. Additional support is provided by Carla Shen.

Huma Bhabha: Before The End is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Nothing Falls is presented courtesy of the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi; *Feel the Hammer, Member,* and *Mr. Stone* are presented courtesy of the artist and David Zwirner.

Special thanks to Brooklyn Bridge Park and engineering partner Silman.

Public Art Fund is supported by the generosity of individuals, corporations, and private foundations including lead support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, along with major support from the Abrams Foundation, the Charina Endowment Fund, The Cowles Charitable Trust, the Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts, The Fuhrman Family Foundation, The Marc Haas Foundation, Hartfield Foundation, William Talbott Hillman Foundation- Affirmation Arts Fund, KHR Family Fund, the Donald A. Pels Charitable Trust, Red Crane Foundation, Meyer and Deanne Sharlin Foundation, The Silverweed Foundation, and Wagner Foundation.

Public Art Fund exhibitions and programs are also supported in part with public funds from government agencies, including the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

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IMAGE CREDITS:

Huma Bhabha, 2022

Photo by Daniel Dorsa. Courtesy of David Zwirner.