

Samuels & Associates

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NICOLE EISENMAN'S *FOUNTAIN* SCULPTURE TO BE PERMANENTLY INSTALLED AT BOSTON'S 401 PARK



Nicole Eisenman, *Sketch for a Fountain* ©Skulptur Projekte 2017. Photo by Henning Rogge.

April 9, 2019 – Boston, MA – The large-scale outdoor installation *Fountain* by celebrated contemporary artist Nicole Eisenman will be permanently installed at the redeveloped 401 Park—a 1920s-era Sears & Roebuck Co. building and historical landmark in The Fenway neighborhood of Boston—in late Spring 2019. The work will be unveiled during a community event on June 2, 2019 and will remain a fixture of the property's soon-to-be-completed public park.

One of Eisenman's most significant and celebrated works to date, the original iteration of the work, *Sketch for a Fountain*, made its international debut in 2017 at Skulptur Projekte Münster, an illustrious exhibition of site-specific sculptural commissions that takes place in Münster, Germany every ten years and is organized by curator Kasper König. The installation features several monumental figures of bathers, situated in various positions of repose around a shallow pool of water—an ode to the art historical precedent of fountains as a social hub and life source for city dwellers. While the initial installation in Münster included figures made of both plaster and bronze—a *sketch* for what would become the final work—the figures in *Fountain* will all be made of bronze.

Home to several of the city's most noteworthy cultural institutions, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the greater Fenway neighborhood will be further grounded as a notable cultural destination with the addition of Eisenman's *Fountain*. Motivated by a deep commitment to creative placemaking and public art, Samuels & Associates—who have been developing 401 Park—sought to bring a major work of contemporary art to The Fenway. *Fountain* will serve as a gathering place and focal point for the new 1.1-acre public park at 401 Park, complementing the spirit of this historical building. With the expertise and guidance of Abigail Goodman, Maria Taft, and Molly Epstein of curatorial and advisory firm Goodman Taft, and in close collaboration with the artist, Samuels & Associates acquired *Fountain* for permanent display in the green space adjacent to 401 Park.

"The thought-provoking sculptures Nicole Eisenman has created are a perfect fit— both for this site and for The Fenway," says Steve Samuels, founder and chairman of Samuels & Associates. "They will be the centerpiece of our new public park space, shifting Boston's cultural center of gravity and connecting the historic prominence of 401 Park to the Emerald Necklace and the MFA. We hope that the spirit of these works inspires others in this neighborhood and beyond to support innovative artists who are rethinking the world and to bring their works to our city."

"Nicole Eisenman is one of the preeminent contemporary artists working today, and we are thrilled to bring her work to such a prominent location in The Fenway and in Boston," adds Joel Sklar, president and principal of Samuels & Associates. "*Fountain* reinforces the art historical significance of the neighborhood on the international stage, and we are eager for the Boston community and our many visitors to engage with the wonderful figures brought to life in this work."

"Working with Samuels has been fulfilling as they aspire to engage with visual culture at the highest level when embarking on a new project," state Abigail Ross Goodman and Molly Epstein, who serve as the curators of the project. "They are genuinely interested in enriching communities from many perspectives, and Boston— and its public art landscape— are better for it. To have this seminal work of contemporary sculpture find a permanent home in Boston is incredibly meaningful," they add. "We have admired Nicole and her practice for many years and know *Fountain* will be a nexus for dialogue, contemplation, and public activity for years to come."

"I'm happy to know the fountain will be situated in a place where people are likely to hang out and enjoy some leisure time," says Eisenman. "I look forward to seeing kids climbing on the sculptures and this piece integrating into the fabric of life in the Fens."

About Nicole Eisenman

Born in 1965 in Verdun, France, Eisenman has been the subject of major solo exhibitions at the New Museum (New York); The Jewish Museum (New York); the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; the Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis; and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, among others. Her work is also collected widely by prominent institutions around the world, including The Museum of Modern Art

(New York); the Art Institute of Chicago; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York); and the Kunsthalle Zurich. Recent accolades include the prestigious Suzanne Deal Booth / FLAG Art Foundation Prize in 2018, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship in 2015, and the Carnegie Prize in 2013. Eisenman currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

About Samuels & Associates

Samuels & Associates, headquartered in Boston, MA, has been building communities for more than two decades. Pioneers in development, leasing and merchandising, and property management, the Samuels & Associates team specializes in creating mixed-use development projects with active pedestrian spaces, flexible and inspiring commercial spaces, and dynamic combinations of retailers and restaurateurs. Samuels & Associates is guided by the belief that people should live, work, shop and play in dynamic communities that inspire and enrich all aspects of their lives.

About 401 Park

401 Park has been a focal point of The Fenway since it was built back in 1929 by Sears & Roebuck Company. 401 Park stands 200 feet high, occupying a staggering 1 million square feet. After an extensive redevelopment by Samuels & Associates, 401 Park is relaunching as a new city destination, highlighted by the new Time Out Market food hall and 1.1-acre public park. The name 401 Park reinforces both the changing nature of the building as a dynamic connection point and the updates to Park Drive as a green boulevard linked to the historic Olmstead-designed Emerald Necklace.

About Goodman Taft

Goodman Taft is a curatorial and advisory firm that focuses on post-war and contemporary art, and is committed to both the building of private collections and the development of curatorial activities and exhibition-making in the public realm. With a multi-disciplinary platform driven by research and connoisseurship, Goodman Taft organizes projects that facilitate deep engagement with artists making an impact on our contemporary moment.

Note to Editor

The details of the community event on June 2nd are forthcoming and will be announced later this spring.

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