

STORM KING ART CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STORM KING PRESENTS MARK DI SUVERO'S TALLEST SCULPTURE $E=MC^2$ ON VIEW FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE UNITED STATES THIS SUMMER



Installation of Mark di Suvero, $E=MC^2$ (1996-97), at Storm King Art Center, 2019. Courtesy the artist and Spacetime C.C., New York. Photography Jerry L. Thompson.

Mountainville, NY, July 12, 2019—Storm King Art Center is delighted to present the first US exhibition of internationally renowned sculptor Mark di Suvero's $E=MC^2$ (1996-97), which at nearly 100 feet is the tallest sculpture by the American artist to date. Created in di Suvero's studio in Chalon-sur-Soâne, France, $E=MC^2$ (1996-97) was previously shown in Paris in 1997 as part of a two-year-long citywide exhibition of the artist's work and has been on display in Valenciennes, France for the past 10 years.

Widely regarded as one of the most important American artists to emerge from the Abstract Expressionist era, di Suvero remains a prolific artist today with a career spanning more than sixty years. The exhibition of $E=MC^2$ (1996-97) at Storm King continues an unparalleled five-decade-long dialogue between the artist and the Art Center. The new work, made from steel beams and standing nearly 100 feet tall, has been sited alongside eight other examples of di Suvero's large-scale sculptures from various stages of his career currently on display in the South Fields and adds a new dimension to a historic vista at Storm King.

As one of the country's preeminent sculptors, di Suvero's work has been an integral part of Storm King Art Center's permanent collection since 1968 when Ralph Ogden, one of Storm King's co-founders, and the grandfather of current President John P. Stern, purchased the Art Center's first

di Suvero sculpture. In 1976, Storm King Art Center became a temporary home to five of di Suvero's large-scale works that had been exhibited throughout New York City's five boroughs as part of the artist's historic 1975 retrospective organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Since then, Storm King has collaborated with di Suvero on four landmark exhibitions including a twenty-five year retrospective of sculptures and drawings in 1985; a ten-year retrospective in 1995 and 1996 that included a group of di Suvero's paintings shown in the United States for the first time; a unique exhibition highlighting di Suvero's relationship with his longtime gallerist and friend Richard Bellamy in 2005 and 2006; and a major exhibition of outdoor works sited on Governors Island in New York in 2011 and 2012. Most recently, Storm King published the first comprehensive monograph of the artist in 2015.

Today Storm King's permanent collection includes five works by Mark di Suvero including one of the artist's most political works, *Mother Peace* (1969-1970) and *Mon Père, Mon Père* (1973-75), which was one of the original works loaned by the artist to Storm King after his 1975 Whitney retrospective and has since been acquired by the Art Center. The collection also includes *Mozart's Birthday* (1989), *Pyramidian* (1987/1998), and *Mahatma* (1978-79), which was re-sited during the 2018 season to the Art Center's North Woods. Additional di Suvero works on view at Storm King currently include *She* (1977-78, on loan from a private collection), which is an example of the artist's introduction of playful, moving elements to his steel sculptures, and more recent works including *For Chris* (1991, on loan from the artist and Spacetime, C.C., New York), *Frog Legs* (2002, on loan from the artist and Spacetime, C.C., New York) and *Figolu* (2005-11, on loan from the artist and Spacetime, C.C., New York).

In a recent interview with the artist documented by the Art Center as part of an Oral History archive, Mark di Suvero said, "Having a piece at Storm King is like having jewels in velvet. You look at it, and you feel the goodness of the landscape, of the sense of space, the sky that comes with it..." David R. Collens, Storm King's Director and Chief Curator, adds, "Di Suvero's bold, open, steel sculptures and the broad expanses of Storm King seem made for each other—together they create a unique environment in which the dynamism of art and nature reinforce one another. We're thrilled to add *E=MC²* (1996-97) to the di Suvero works already on display at Storm King and offer our visitors a chance to experience this monumental work within the backdrop of our unique Hudson Valley landscape."

Di Suvero's *E=MC²* (1996-97) will be a long-term loan to Storm King for three years from the artist and Spacetime C.C., New York.

Mark di Suvero Monograph

In October 2015, Storm King, in collaboration with DelMonico Books • Prestel, published the first comprehensive monograph of di Suvero, titled ***Mark di Suvero*** (Hardcover, 240 pages, 125 color illustrations, 25 b/w illustrations, USD 75.00). The book is edited by David R. Collens, Storm King's Director and Chief Curator; Nora R. Lawrence, Senior Curator and author of an original essay for the volume; and Theresa Choi. Additional contributions were made by Mark di Suvero; Patricia C. Phillips, independent writer and curator and Dean of Graduate Studies at the Rhode Island School of Design; Nancy Princenthal, former senior editor at *Art in America*; and artist Ursula von Rydingsvard, an award-winning, New York-based artist who is internationally renowned for her monumental sculptures.

About Mark di Suvero

Internationally renowned sculptor Mark di Suvero was born in Shanghai, China, in 1933. He immigrated to the United States in 1941 and received a BA in Philosophy from the University of California, Berkeley. Di Suvero began showing his sculpture in the late 1950's and is one of the most important American artists to emerge from the Abstract Expressionist era. A pioneer in the use of steel, di Suvero is without peer in the exhibition of public sculpture worldwide. Mark di Suvero's architectural-scale sculptures - many with moving elements that invite viewer participation - have been exhibited in the United States, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Germany, Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom. Di Suvero is the first living artist to exhibit in Le Jardin de Tuileries and Les Esplanades des Invalides in Paris and at Millennium Park in Chicago. His work is in over 100 museums and public collections including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, National Gallery of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Walker Art Center, and Storm King Art Center.

Mark di Suvero is a lifelong activist for peace and social justice, and has demonstrated a generous commitment to helping artists. In 1962, he co-founded Park Place Gallery, the first artists' cooperative in New York City. In 1977, he established the Athena Foundation to assist artists to realize their ambitions. In 1986, he established Socrates Sculpture Park at the site of a landfill on the East River in Queens, New York. Through his leadership, a 4.5-acre parcel was transformed by a coalition of artists and community members into an open studio and exhibition space. To date, the park has hosted the work of over 1000 artists.

Di Suvero received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Contemporary Sculpture from the International Sculpture Center in 2000 and the Heinz Award for Arts and Humanities in 2005. In 2010, di Suvero was a recipient of the Smithsonian Archives of American Art Medal, as well as the National Medal of the Arts. In 2013, di Suvero received the American Academy of Arts and Letters Gold Medal for Sculpture.

About Storm King Art Center

Storm King Art Center is a 500-acre outdoor museum located in New York's Hudson Valley, where visitors experience large-scale sculpture and site-specific commissions under open sky. Since 1960, Storm King has been dedicated to stewarding the hills, meadows, and forests of its site and surrounding landscape. Building on the visionary thinking of its founders, Storm King supports artists and some of their most ambitious works. Changing exhibitions, programming, and seasons offer discoveries with every visit.

Storm King's 2019 season runs from April 3 through December 8, 2019. For more information, visit: www.stormking.org.

Join the conversation on social media by mentioning **Storm King Art Center** and using the hashtags #StormKing and #MarkdiSuvero when posting.

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