

**STORM KING ART CENTER TO MOUNT SITE-RESPONSIVE OUTDOOR
EXHIBITION OF
NEW WORKS BY KIKI SMITH**

The outdoor exhibition will mark the first presentation of the artist's new 'flag' works in the United States, exploring Smith's long-held fascination with water

KIKI SMITH RIVER LIGHT
On view from July 15–November 9, 2020
Member Preview: July 8–13, 2020



Kiki Smith, *river light* (2019), Circle of nine polyester silk flags on steel poles
Courtesy of the Artist and Pace Gallery, New York. Photo by Eftychia Vlachou
Courtesy DESTE Foundation for Contemporary Art

Mountainville, NY, July 1, 2020—Storm King Art Center will present a site-responsive grouping of new and recent, large-scale flag works by acclaimed multidisciplinary artist Kiki Smith (b. 1954, United States), from July 15–November 9, 2020. *Kiki Smith River Light* will mark the first US presentation of Smith's flags, which represent a recent element within the artist's wide-ranging production.

Recognized for her thoughtful investigations into the human condition and the natural world, Kiki Smith's expansive and evolving practice resonates powerfully with Storm King's site and context. The exhibition will bring attention to Smith's intimate consideration of space and ongoing interest in the dichotomy of water—an element that is at once formed yet fleeting—and will directly reference Storm King's proximity to the Hudson River.

Organized by Storm King's Senior Curator Nora Lawrence, the exhibition will include two large-scale flag installations, *hudson river* (2020) and *river light* (2019), near to one another. The nine, visually related flags of *river light* (2019) will form the centerpiece of the exhibition: positioned in a circle at the top of Storm King's Museum Hill. Sited amid long views of the surrounding mountains of Storm King's 500-acre site, the flags will present an ephemeral installation that is activated by the natural world around it.

The gleaming, blue-hued imagery printed on the nine unique flags that make up *river light* (2019) originates from Smith's photography and film of the East River, along which she has walked frequently during the more than 45 years she has lived in New York City. Focusing on the glints created by sunlight on the

surface of water, Smith traced sections of the film stills onto sheets of plexiglass, which she then layered atop each other to create cyanotypes that emulate the river's rhythms. These flags, each of which features a distinct composition, interact with the wind to generate an unpredictable and ever-changing movement, mimicking the ebb and flow of a river.

For the exhibition at Storm King, Smith created a new flag to specifically represent the Hudson River, which will be installed near to the grouping of the nine flags from *river light* (2019). As with her earlier series, Smith used personal photography of the body of water, which in this case was taken aboard an Amtrak train while traveling to her home in the Catskills at sunset, to inform the flag's imagery.

The pairing of these two distinct flag series unites two intersecting and familiar bodies of water—the Hudson and East River—that relate on a personal level to chapters of Smith's own life, while providing insight into the artist's long-held fascination with water and the mythical and spiritual properties it is often thought to embody.

Senior Curator Nora Lawrence said: "Kiki Smith's flags reference the unpredictable and beautiful specificity of a natural moment. In the experience of viewing them—of looking up, at and through them, toward the cosmos—they ask us to consider our vast and beautiful universe. We are delighted to share her flag works for the first time in the United States with this immersive, site-responsive exhibition, which has such important resonance to Storm King's own site and mission."

"To me, everything I make is about honoring being here, or honoring what is holy," said Smith. "Outdoors is where the life is. Indoors, you rarely see life emanating, but if you go outside life is emanating everywhere. Sometimes as an artist one tries to catch what is alive, or make something that holds some properties of that life, but vibrant life is right outside."

"We are thrilled to present a new collection of works by Kiki Smith, whose rich approach to art-making continues to explore the relationship between humans and the natural world in uniquely evocative ways," said Storm King President, John P. Stern.

About Kiki Smith

Kiki Smith is an artist whose work has addressed the themes of sex, birth, and regeneration. She uses a broad variety of materials to continuously expand and evolve a body of work that includes sculpture, printmaking, photography, drawing, and textiles.

Smith has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions worldwide including over 25 museum exhibitions. Her work has been featured at five Venice Biennales, including the 2017 edition. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 2017 was awarded the title of Honorary Royal Academician by the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Previously, Smith was recognized in 2006 by TIME Magazine as one of the "TIME 100: The People Who Shape Our World." Other awards include the Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture in 2000; the 2009 Edward MacDowell Medal; the 2010 Nelson A. Rockefeller Award, Purchase College School of the Arts; the 2013 U.S. Department of State Medal of Arts, and the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Sculpture Center, among others. She is an adjunct professor at NYU and Columbia University.

Smith lives and works in the East Village, New York City, and the Hudson Valley, New York State.



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 Art Center anticipates opening its 2020 season as an outdoor-only experience in a limited capacity beginning Wednesday July 15 for the public. The Art Center will open to Storm King Members for a special early-access Member Week from July 8-13.

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

Instagram: [@stormkingartcenter](#) | **Facebook:** [StormKingArtCenter](#) | **Twitter:** [@StormKingArtCtr](#)
Website: [stormking.org](#)

Visitor Info

Storm King is located at 1 Museum Road, New Windsor, New York

Hours:

Wednesday–Monday, 10:00am–5:30pm
Member Mornings: Sunday, 10:00am–11:00am

Admission

Timed-entry tickets are required for all visitors and per-vehicle pricing is in effect. Visitors may purchase tickets for up to 6 people per vehicle (children under 5 are not included person count).

Car (1 person) \$20.00	Car (4 people) \$68.00
Car (2 people) \$40.00	Car (5 people) \$76.00
Car (3 people) \$48.00	Car (6 people) \$84.00

Storm King is pleased to offer complimentary admission in 2020 to the following frontline healthcare workers: doctors, nurses, hospital staff, EMTs, and paramedics. Other visitors who are eligible to access free admission include active military and their families, EBT users via Museums for All, and Storm King partner school students, families, and educators. Visitors may also obtain free admission for a vehicle of 6 via a local Library Membership. Visitors who qualify for free admission must call and reserve their ticket by phone at 845.534.3115.

Membership

Members receive unlimited free admission, access to Member Mornings and virtual events, and a 10% discount in the online Museum Store. Visit [stormking.org/membership](#) to join or renew as a Member.

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